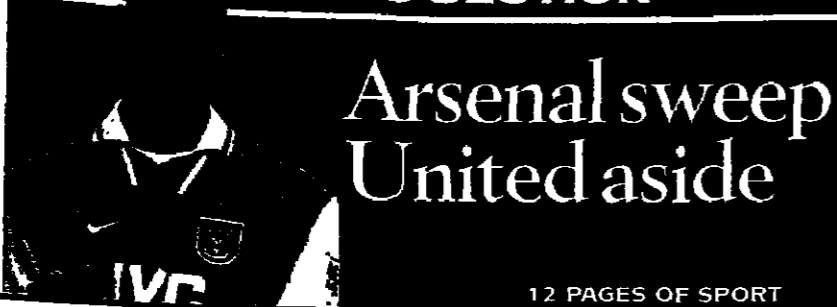




NEWS SECTION

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Arsenal sweep United aside

12 PAGES OF SPORT



Richard E Grant makes it up

REVIEW FRONT



Blair: my own philosophy

COMMENT, ARTS & NETWORK FEATURES

Blair seeks global finance talks

TONY BLAIR will call for an international economic summit to discuss ways to pull the world back from the brink of recession when he speaks to the United Nations in New York today.

He will also demand a shake-up of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. The Prime Minister, current chairman of the G7 industrialised countries, will say there needs to be a second Bretton Woods—the conference held in

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

July 1944 to avoid global recession after World War Two, which set up the IMF.

During the day-long trip to the United States, Mr Blair will show his support for President Bill Clinton over the Monica Lewinsky affair. The release of tapes and transcripts of Mr Clinton's evidence to the grand jury is certain to overshadow Mr Blair's attempt to

focus on global economic problems.

Mr Clinton and Mr Blair will appear together on a platform at a seminar on the strategy for a "third way" between free-market economics and old-style state socialism.

Writing in *The Independent* today, Mr Blair says he believes the "third way" offers a way of reconciling philosophies usually seen as antagonistic. "It is not an attempt to split the difference between right and left. It

is about traditional values in a changing world."

Mr Blair is understood to be seeking a world summit, possibly in October, to try to prevent the turmoil in the Far East and parts of South America becoming a global economic slump, as happened in the 1930s. The summit would include many of the countries facing difficulties. It could mean increasing the funds available for the IMF to bail out countries in a debt crisis.

The obvious parallel is Bretton Woods, when representatives from 44 countries met in New Hampshire to prevent a financial collapse after World War Two. It resulted in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), to make long-term loans for development projects, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to finance short-term deficits.

Mr Blair's officials said that the Prime Minister's proposals

for reform should not be taken as criticism of the IMF. "It is an acknowledgement that the existing system is not serving us terribly well in relation to the crises that have erupted in recent times."

The Prime Minister will propose much greater openness in international and national financial dealings; better supervision of the financial institutions—to tackle the bad debt problem in Far East banks; adequate resources for the

international financial institutions and improved accountability; and an improvement in the ability of the international community to respond to short-term crises, such as the run against the rouble.

His call comes as the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), an independent economic think tank, predicts that UK GDP growth for 1999 will be 0.4 per cent, well down on predictions of 1.8 per

cent made last June. The report claims there is danger of a "precipitous turn in the UK stock cycle", causing a contraction in UK manufacturing of 2.3 per cent, and that growth in the service sector will slow almost to a standstill.

The G7 last week hinted at a world cut in interest rates when it said the "balance of risks in the world economy had shifted" but the US Federal Reserve shares German caution about cutting rates.

Clinton support starts to slide

BILL CLINTON'S future as President rests today with the American people, as television stations across the US prepare to broadcast his unpurged testimony about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky and the latest poll shows a leap in the number of those who believe he should resign.

The broadcast, all four hours and 13 minutes of it, coincides with his keynote speech at the opening session of the UN General Assembly. Two faces of the world's most powerful man—international statesman and shamed womaniser—will be juxtaposed in one of the most surreal political and media events ever.

Mr Clinton will first deliver a speech at the General Assembly before appearing alongside Tony Blair at a conference on the global economy.

Predictions about the likely public response to Mr Clinton's video testimony were hard to call. Some forecast a cataclysmic fall in his ratings on a scale similar to the defection from Richard Nixon after the Watergate tapes were released.

The latest polls indicate that public opinion could be drawing more into line with the views of opinion-formers—politicians, legal analysts and newspaper editorial writers—who are calling for Mr Clinton's resignation. A poll for *Newsweek* magazine, released yesterday,

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington
DAVID USBORNE
in New York

showed the proportion of those who believe the President should resign had increased by seven percentage points over the past week, to 46 per cent.

The number of those supporting impeachment had risen similarly, to 41 per cent. Mr Clinton's personal approval rating fell, by three points, to 58 per cent, the first time it has fallen below 60 per cent since the Lewinsky allegations became public in January.

While four US cable channels will broadcast Mr Clinton's taped testimony in full, the US networks were in a quandary, not only about how much of Mr Clinton's sometimes explicit testimony to broadcast, but also about the likely size of the audience. While Americans tell polling organisations that they have little interest in (or are bored or disgusted by) the Lewinsky affair, television and radio ratings tell a different story: that they cannot get enough of it.

Almost two-thirds of Americans told pollsters that they thought the tape should not be made public, while a bare half said in advance that they would watch it. Television companies, however, believe that viewing figures could be as high as for Mr Clinton's televised confes-

sion last month, if not higher.

White House officials spent the final hours before today's broadcast trying to subdue expectations of new shocks, and lawyers from the Clinton camp played up the remorse and contrition in Mr Clinton's answers.

Republicans kept a judicious distance, leaving the moral outrage to be expressed by speakers at the Christian Coalition convention that was also, by unhappy chance, meeting in Washington at the weekend.

The proximity of mid-term congressional elections in November was seen as one reason the House judiciary committee voted so convincingly to make the material public. Republicans are uncertain how far to press their advantage in the morality stakes if Mr Clinton's personal popularity remains high, while Democrats worry that the steady stream of revelations about his conduct could lose them their jobs.

Neither side is sufficiently confident of the public mood as to definitively support or oppose the institution of impeachment hearings. The publication of the prosecutor's report and the broadcast of Mr Clinton's testimony makes the evidence available directly to the American public, and with it the ultimate responsibility for deciding Mr Clinton's fate.

Clinton's crisis, pages 10 and 11

Hostages freed after 14 months' captivity



The released aid workers Camilla Carr and Jon James at Moscow international airport yesterday

Sergei Karpukhin

TWO British aid workers were heading home last night after being held hostage in the dark, damp cells of Chechnya without ever knowing why.

Free, after 14 months, Jon James, 38, from Lydney, Glos, and Camilla Carr, 40, from Ross-on-Wye, were flown to Britain, via Moscow, following their unexpected release yesterday morning.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the pair were "understood

BY PHIL REEVES
in Moscow
and VANESSA THORPE

to be in good health", but they looked thin and pale yesterday.

The charity workers—who went to the Caucasus republic to help children recover from war trauma—must now start a healing process of their own, after an ordeal in which they were forced to speak in whispers, and to live in cellars, on

limited rations. They say they were moved, in all, 14 times.

"We had very little space," said Ms Carr. "We had no light and it was very damp. The temperature was pretty awful."

As her family and supporters celebrated, she said she was willing to forgive her captors. "I think it is better not to hold a grudge. Of course, there has been a lot of anger, a lot of grief. She also said that they did not know why they were seized.

"They captured us because they had no jobs. They have nothing after the war [with Russia] and so they wanted money."

Helen Carr, Camilla's mother, said her daughter's release was a "complete and utter surprise".

"I came home to find the house surrounded by reporters," she said. "I am just overwhelmed and so happy."

In Moscow Ms Carr said: "I

want to thank everyone who's been involved in helping us obtain our freedom again and see the sky and the trees and to be with all our loved family and friends."

She described their captivity as a "rollercoaster ride" and said the first seven months were the hardest.

Mr James said the couple had been hit a "few times" by their captors.

Dark days, page 3

Hill tribe raped and tortured air crash survivors

THE MYSTERY surrounding the crash of a Burmese airliner last month took a bizarre new twist yesterday after it was reported in Thailand that survivors of the crash were tortured and gang-raped to death by Shan hill tribesmen just inside the Burmese border.

At least five of the 39 passengers and crew of a Myanmar Airlines Fokker-27, which

BY JAMES EAST
in Bangkok

crashed into dense jungle near Tachilek airport, 10km inside the Burmese border, are believed to have survived the crash—only to be killed by scavengers from a nearby village.

The claims that survivors were murdered came in a report on the crash published by

yesterday's edition of the Bangkok Post. A female flight attendant is believed to have died through injuries sustained by being raped at least 14 times, the newspaper said. It said an investigation by Burmese authorities revealed that she was gang-raped over a four-day period. Another woman, a university student, also died from internal injuries sustained

through repeated rape. Three surviving male passengers were tortured to death.

The newspaper says the true events after the crash have been disclosed by non-governmental organisations working with hill tribesmen on the Thai-Burmese border.

The villagers, believed to be Shan tribesmen, cut off their victims' ears and the fingers to

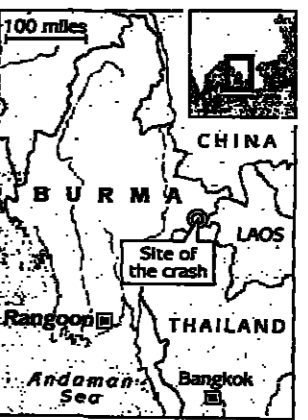
take their gold jewellery, the report said. Most of the victims' bodies were badly decomposed when search parties eventually found the aircraft.

The jet was bound for Tachilek airport when it went missing on 24 August. Shan state, where the plane crashed, is inhabited by hill tribes who are fiercely opposed to the centralising policy of the Burmese military junta. About half the passengers were Burmese military officers and their families.

The bodies of the army officers were apparently mutilated as a symbol of revenge against the junta. There has been speculation that the Burmese authorities have tried to cover up the cause of the crash because of the presence of high-ranking military officials.

An air traffic control mix-up meant it was a day before the authorities even knew the plane was missing. The whereabouts of the passengers was not known for another three days.

Burma said yesterday that the reports of torture and rape were "exaggerated", and were designed to cast the country in a bad light.



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After 14 dark months in a lawless land, freedom came in a private jet

ONE OF the key jailers responsible for imprisoning two British aid workers for more than a year in cold, damp cellars in Chechnya has been identified as an Islamic fundamentalist whose group has strong ties to Saudi Arabia.

Hostages Jon James and Camilla Carr, who were freed yesterday, are believed to have been held by kidnapers led by Arbi Barayev, an enemy of the Chechen government, and a radical Wahhabi leader.

The Chechen's involvement suggests that ransom money may not have been the main motive driving the gunmen, who seized the two Britons in July last year in the Chechen capital, Grozny, where an epidemic of kidnappings - they had gone to help treat children suffering from the trauma of recent war.

Politics and religious rivalry may also have lain behind their ordeal, which finally ended at Sam yesterday when one of their guards came into their cell and told them to "get going".

The couple, who flew into Moscow last night looking exhausted but elated, did not believe their ears. "We had heard all this before," said Ms Carr. "We just grabbed our bags and that was it." They said they had been constantly moved around Chechnya during their captivity, and had usually been imprisoned in cellars. "There wasn't much food for the first seven months, but they [their captors] did not have much either," said Ms Carr, 40, from Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire. They ended up living with a Chechen family when supplies became more plentiful.

Details began to emerge last night of the shady figures who held them for more than 14 months. Arbi Barayev is a known opponent of Aslan Maskhadov, the President of Chechnya, and is known to have had ties with the republic's unpopular Moscow-backed puppet government which was overthrown during the Chechen war. The conflict ended in 1996.

Last night it was unclear whether Mr Barayev's group had controlled the couple throughout their captivity, or whether they passed them on to other kidnapers. "We know they were passed from group to group, but we have reason to believe that Barayev was involved," said Chris Hunter, head of the Centre for Peace-making and Community Development, a Quaker-backed aid organisation, for whom the pair worked. Mr Hunter has played a leading role in efforts to secure their release.

By PHIL REEVES
in Moscow

Yesterday's events bring an end to more than a year of campaigning by Mr Hunter and by the couple's families and supporters, including former hostages John McCarthy and Terry Waite.

Until yesterday, the only concrete source of hope was three videotapes. In the last of these, broadcast by the BBC last month, the couple looked worn, thin and tense. They revealed that their hiding place was "hot" and without windows. They also said they could listen to the BBC World Service and expressed pleasure at the letters they had received from Britain. But there was a despairing undertone: "Don't make it too much longer," said Mr James croakily (he was used to whispering), "I don't know how much longer I'm going to stay sane."

It is believed that Mr Barayev's henchmen were holding the British pair in March, when Chechen anti-terrorist commandos embarked on a failed raid to release them from their darkened cell in Urus-Martan, 20 miles south of Grozny.

The rise of Wahhabism, the fundamentalist state religion of Saudi Arabia, in the Caucasus has become an issue of profound concern. Wahhabists were influential in the Chechen war, supplying money, medicines and ideology to the separatist cause. Since then tensions have been escalating with local Sufis, who resented the challenge to their own, semi-secular Islam by foreign fundamentalism.

The couple's abduction may have been an attempt by the Wahhabists to discredit the Maskhadov government, but it could also have been a trap for funds. The Foreign Office has said that it paid no ransom for the couple's release. Nor, says Mr Hunter, did his charity or their families.

But money does appear to have been a factor. "There were figures being bandied around indirectly in Chechnya," said Mr Hunter. But it may be that Ms Carr and Mr James, 37, will never know the full story of the machinations that led to the release. In the last few weeks in Grozny, activity surrounding their case intensified, prompting the notorious renegade Chechen commander, Salmar Raduyev, to predict their imminent release last week.

Among those energetically pressing their cause was the President of the neighbouring republic of Ingushetia, Russian An-



Aslan Maskhadov, President of Chechnya (left) with Russian Anshev, President of Ingushetia, who pressed for the couple's freedom AP



Jon James and Camilla Carr before their abduction in July last year



The couple on the video, thought have been made last month BBC TV

COUNTDOWN TO FREEDOM

July 1997

Jon James and Camilla Carr are abducted at gunpoint by masked rebels in the outskirts of Grozny.

August 1997

The British Government refuses to pay a ransom, despite reports that three Russians and an Italian have been freed for around £1.5m.

September 1997

The Foreign Office tells the hostages' families it believes they are alive.

December 1997

The families launch a campaign. Rumours that a release is imminent begin to circulate.

February 1998

Former Beirut hostages Terry Waite and John McCarthy help publicise their plight. The first of three videos is released, but not publicly shown.

March 1998

Chechen commandos fail to free the Britons after a gun battle with the kidnapers leaves up to three dead.

April 1998

The families are shown a video in which they seem reasonably well.

July 1998

A candlelit vigil is held in Bath. Hundreds of postcards carrying a picture of the two are sent to the Russian Embassy in London.

August 1998

A two-minute video of the two, looking gaunt, is shown to the families then broadcast on British television.

September 1998

Chechen warlord Salmar Raduyev indicates the Britons may get out soon. At 1.15pm yesterday news breaks of their release and the homeward journey begins.

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shev, Boris Berezovsky, the Moscow oligarch who helped oust the last Russian government, was also a principle player. He has strong ties with the Chechens and is a former minister for the ex-Soviet republics. He accompanied the couple on their flight, along with a crew from ORT, the Russian television channel he controls.

Whatever dark dealings went on behind the scenes,

they are certain to have been highly complex. Extracting captives from Chechnya is an exhaustive process, complicated by the difficulty that foreigners, diplomats included, have in visiting the republic. For most it is a no-go area, and no visitor ventures in without a Chechen armed escort. Nearly two years of war with Russia destroyed its infrastructure and reduced it to near-anarchy

in which the abduction racket has been revived with a vengeance.

Abductions have been going on in the Caucasus mountains for centuries, and were used by the Chechens as an effective weapon during the war with Russia, in which they organised two mass-hostage takings on Russian soil.

When the war ended, kidnapping became big business

for the scores of criminal groups who continue to operate in the republic. They seized journalists - including a Russian television star - aid workers, Russian soldiers and policemen, construction workers, and even Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy to Chechnya. Ransom demands, many of which were paid, have run to up to \$3m (£1.8m).

President Maskhadov,

alarmed by the impact this was having on his efforts to secure international recognition and investment for his war-wrecked republic, struggled hard to snuff the practice out. But it is a tall order in a clanish society that is armed to the teeth, where bandits roam at large, and the concept of state-imposed law has never seriously developed.

The President, a former sep-

arist commander, imposed curfews and dispatched his anti-terrorist unit to search for hostages, village by village.

Although he supported the Foreign Office's "no ransom" policy, the Chechen president did put some money on the table. In March he declared a \$100,000 reward for information leading to the couple's release. It is not known if this cash has now been claimed.

'E.T. - email home', say cosmologists

THE SCIENTIFIC search for extraterrestrial intelligence has entered a new era. If ET is out there all he has to do is log on to a special internet website created by leading astronomers.

A series of searching questions will weed out hoax calls but scientists believe a website dedicated to making contact with extraterrestrials is as logical as searching the skies for signs of intelligent radio signals.

Paul Davies, the British cosmologist and award-winning science author, is one of those who has lent his name to the attempt to contact ET through the internet. Like the other scientists involved he believes it possible that an intelligent civilisation from deep space has already put a small, super-intelligent probe in orbit around Earth.

"When you think about it, it is no more crazy than using radio telescopes to search for signals. The idea of a probe has a certain logic to it," said Dr Davies, a winner of the prestigious \$1m Templeton Prize for his contributions to scientific and religious understanding.

A number of scientists believe a highly advanced alien intelligence could have sent probes to monitor distant solar systems, in the way that humans have sent relatively crude spacecraft to analyse our neighbouring planets.

Allen Tough, an astronomer

By STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

at the University of Toronto, believes the possibility is strong enough to warrant setting up a special website to encourage the probe to communicate in any way it can.

"How would they learn about us? They would tune into radio, TV and the World Wide Web," Dr Tough said.

The website has 10 questions for ET to answer, such as "Where are you from?", "How did you travel here?" and "Who lives in your galaxy?" ET also has the opportunity to engage in a more philosophical dialogue with questions such as "What can individual human beings contribute to the universe?"

Dr Davies said the idea of an intelligent probe monitoring human development cannot be dismissed. "It's probably not beyond the bounds of a 500 million-year-old technology to monitor the internet from a probe orbiting the Earth. So if we create a website saying 'we know you're listening and would you like to log on', we might get a response," he said.

Dr Davies, who left Britain in 1990 to take up a post at Adelaide University in Australia, admitted the chances of getting ET to log on are small. "It is not a very expensive thing to do. Obviously it is largely a symbolic gesture."

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Use of crack increases to record level

RECORD AMOUNTS of crack cocaine, the highly addictive drug, are available on the streets of Britain, the Home Office and criminologists have discovered.

While crime surveys have found that 1 per cent of 16 to 29-year-olds have taken crack - about the same number as heroin - experts believe the problem is underestimated because users of the drug tend to lie about their habit.

Cocaine seizures by customs and excise have risen sharply in the past three years, from 940kg in 1995 to 2,074kg last year.

New Home Office research has found that more than a quarter of people arrested in a study in London and Manchester were taking crack cocaine, and that one in 10 arrested in Nottingham had used it.

More women tested positively than men. Prostitutes are among the most frequent users of crack.

But the drug, which costs as little as £10 a hit, is not confined to the stereotype of drug users. A vicar, a 14-year-old girl and a group of pensioners are among the growing number of people who have become hooked on inquiries by *The Independent*.

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

pendent have found. The police are particularly concerned about any rise in the substance's popularity because crack users are among the most risk-taking and volatile drug takers and likely to turn to crime to pay for their habits.

Research and reports from drug agencies show that crack - usually tiny "rocks" created by baking cocaine powder - is available in most cities in Britain and is being used by people from a wider range of age groups and social backgrounds than in the past. It is also becoming more widely used in the club scene.

Among the clients being helped by one drug agency in London are a vicar who is stealing up to £200 a week from the church collection plate to pay for his habit, stockbrokers, lawyers, and teenage girls who have been forced into prostitution after being given crack.

Tim Bottomley, who is carrying out research on crack for the Home Office, said: "You could walk up to a punter in the street and buy it in most cities in Britain."

Previous co-research by Mr

Bottomley, leader of the Piper Project, a drugs unit in south Manchester, in 1996 found that crack cocaine addicts in north-west England were typically spending about £20,000 a year on drugs and were particularly involved in offences of burglary, theft and assault.

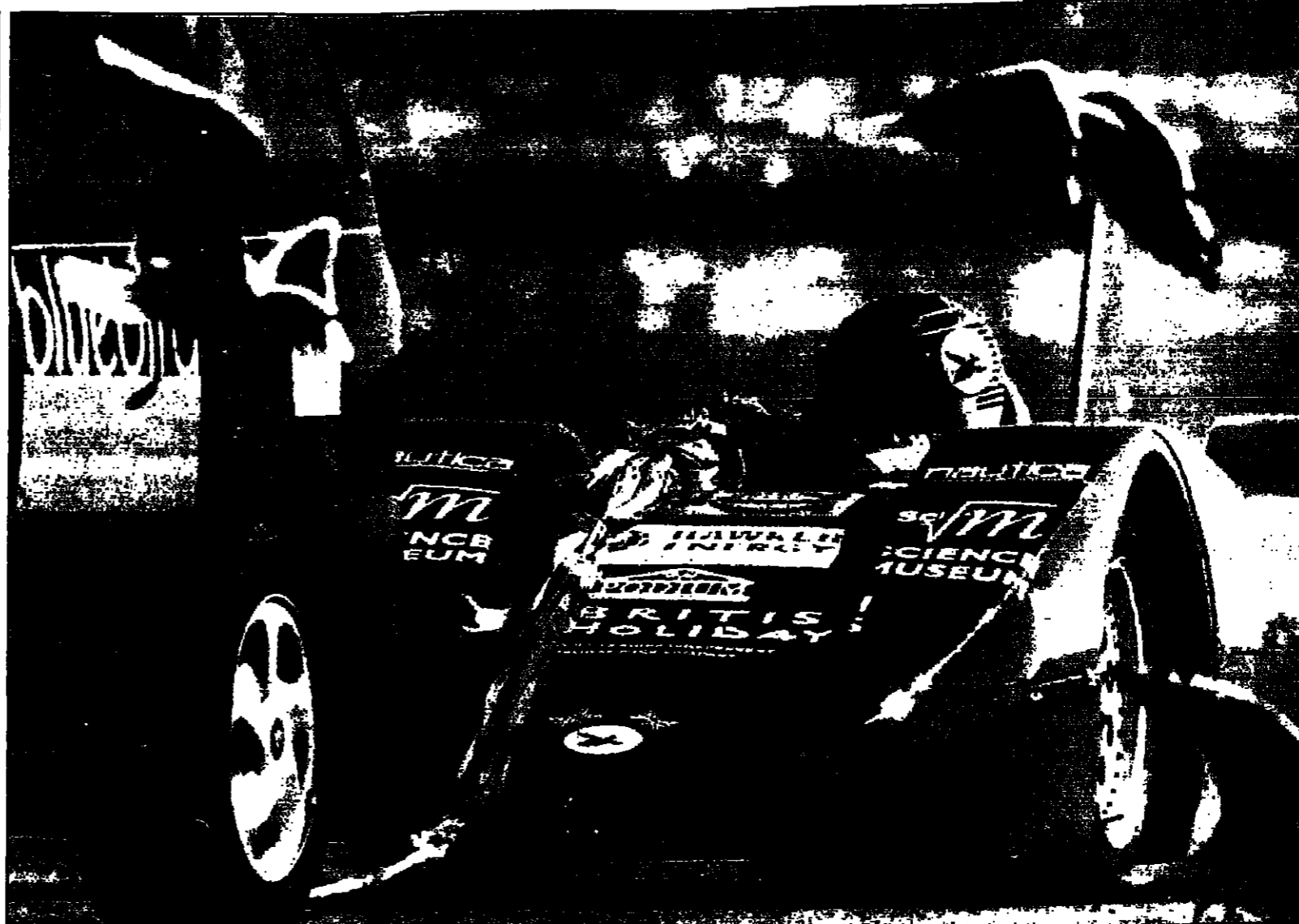
A Home Office official confirmed the trend yesterday: "There is more available than ever before."

Crack is usually smoked in a pipe and produces an intense high that lasts for about 20 minutes, followed by about 20 minutes of low-level euphoria before the effect wears off, leaving a craving for further hits.

Among the side-effects is a long low period that follows the short high. This can cause mental health problems ranging from mild depression to cocaine psychosis with symptoms similar to schizophrenia.

Warnings from drugs experts in the late 1980s that Britain was about to experience a crack epidemic similar to that raging in American inner cities were not borne out.

But it appears that crack - mainly from cocaine from South America - is entering the UK in record amounts.



Large crowds gathered at Pendine Sands, west Wales, yesterday to watch Don Wales, 37, grandson of the late Sir Malcolm Campbell, clock 80mph in the first four-mile test run of his £400,000 Bluebird Electric car. He said his drive 'went very smoothly' Dan Chung

Stores overcharge to boost profits

BY CLARE GARNER

BRITISH SHOPS' MARK-UP ON US PRICES

Furniture and carpets	56%
Hotels and eating out	54%
Sporting goods	31%
Cars and motorbikes	29%
Electrical goods	22%

BRITONS ARE getting a bad deal in terms of how much they are paid and how far it goes, according to new Treasury research. Whether we are buying a sofa, a meal out, a car or a kettle, we are being ripped off and would do better to spend our money in America.

Big mark-ups by British retailers mean that high street goods and services are substantially more expensive in this country than the United States. In addition, our average incomes are 45 per cent lower than those of our American counterparts.

The internal Treasury report, which will be used by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, in his pre-budget statement this autumn, found that prices in

Britain are 56 per cent higher on average for furniture and carpets, 54 per cent higher for hotels and eating out, 31 per cent higher for sporting goods, 29 per cent higher for cars and motorbikes, and 22 per cent higher for electrical goods.

British prices for food, drink and tobacco are, on average, only slightly higher than in America, according to the Treasury, but for some products, such as soft drinks, Britons pay 28 per cent more.

One area where British con-

sumers fare better than Americans, however, is in medical costs, which are 71 per cent higher in the US.

The research will feed into Mr Brown's agenda for increasing competition and boosting productivity in Britain. Mr Brown has been keen to discover why there is more genuine competition, which drives down prices, in America.

The research shows that British companies are better at preventing new rivals undercutting them. "This is why the

Chancellor wants to press ahead with reform of product and labour markets," a senior Treasury official said. "The ultimate aim is to make sure that competition - proper competition - brings the prices down and the consumer gets proper value for money."

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is due to publish separate research, which is understood to show that retailers are squeezing discounts out of their suppliers, but are doing so to boost their own profits rather than to offer their customers a better deal.

The study will provide much of the academic groundwork for the OFT's investigation into the power of big retailing chains, which have increased their profit margins significantly.

The authors of the OFT report, Professors Paul Dobson and Michael Waterson, argue that the trend toward "one-stop shopping" - offering a much wider range of goods - by the big supermarket chains does not benefit consumers.

Professor Dobson accused the big four supermarkets of avoiding competition. "They don't want head-to-head price competition, so the best way to do it is to get a captive set of consumers, then you can increase prices once those consumers are loyal to you."

He pointed to a survey by the Consumers' Association of prices across leading supermarket groups, which showed that those with loyalty cards and other non-price incentives for customers were charging the highest prices.

Easier than ordering a pizza'

PHIE SPENT £250 a day to

her addiction to crack cocaine. "I didn't look like a drug addict. I was losing weight, but I still took care of my looks and how I dressed."

"The drugs were so easy to get. I would buy £50 worth and someone used to come around to my house to deliver them."

"I once smoked £1,000 of crack in a day. After I had finished, the buzz just disappeared - it only lasts about 5-10 minutes, although it's a very powerful hit."

BY JASON BENNETTO

Sophie has been drug-free for five months since getting help from the 493 Crack Awareness Programme, run by the drugs agency Addaction in Hackney, east London.

Fashionably dressed, attractive and articulate, with a lively three-year-old son, Sophie does not look like a stereotypical former junkie.

She started on drugs while living in the United States, but had been off "crack" for seven

years when she arrived in Britain. "Things became difficult for me and I just relapsed." A year ago she was arrested for cheque fraud. She was referred to 493 Project and since then her life has changed. "It was such a relief to tell my partner, and I've got a nice home and a little job now," she said.

But could she still get crack if she wanted it? "I could have it delivered here in four or five minutes - it's easier than ordering a pizza."

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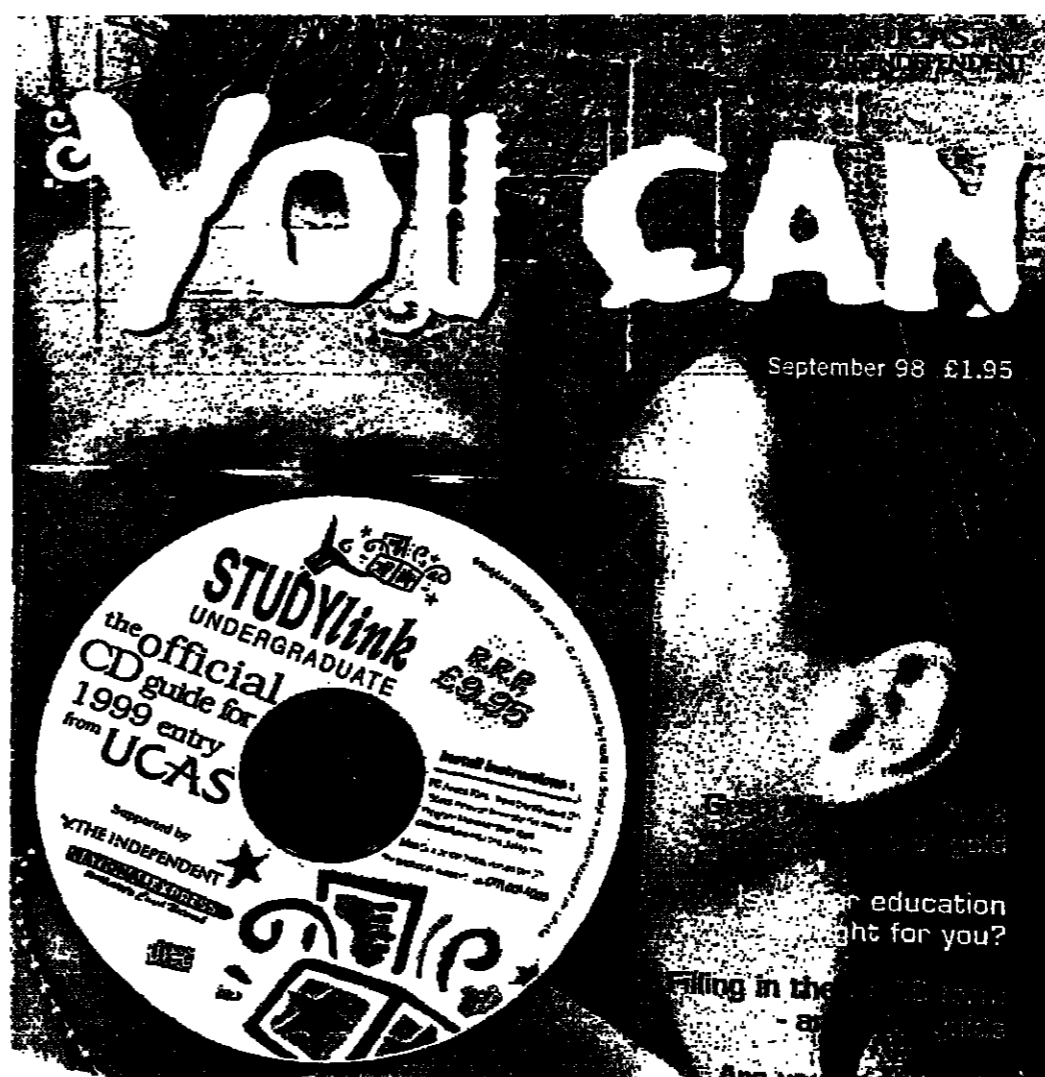
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السلامة

Racism: Met chief to unveil fight against police racism as a black mother accuses officers of beating her and her sons

Condon to face Lawrence inquiry

SIR PAUL Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, is finally to appear before the Stephen Lawrence inquiry in a last-ditch attempt to repair the battered image of his force.

His attendance next week at the public inquiry in Elephant and Castle, south London, is certain to draw crowds of hostile protesters.

Proceedings will be accompanied by a level of security not seen since the appearance of

BY KATHY MARKS

the five murder suspects at the beginning of July.

Sir Paul did not testify to the first part of the inquiry, despite the scathing criticism made of his officers who investigated Stephen's murder in south-east London in 1993.

But on 1 October he will appear before Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, the chairman, to be questioned on the

Metropolitan Police's submission to the inquiry's second phase, which aims to identify the lessons to be learned from the Lawrence case.

Sir Paul will be accompanied by Denis O'Connor, Assistant Commissioner in charge of community issues, and Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Grieve, recently appointed to head a new taskforce on racial and violent crime.

The Commissioner has

faced mounting internal and external pressure as a result of the devastating tale of police incompetence exposed by the inquiry, and allegations by the Lawrence family that the investigation was blighted by racism and corruption.

The Met's commitment to combating racial crime has been called into question by two other high-profile cases: that of Ricky Reel, a young Asian who drowned in the River Thames,

and that of Michael Menson, a black musician who died of his injuries after being found on fire in a London street.

The families of both victims say that police failed to investigate their deaths properly, discounting the possibility that they were murdered by racists. An inquest jury decided last week that Mr Menson had been unlawfully killed.

Mike Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Feder-

ation, which represents lower and middle ranks, last week called on Sir Paul to resign, saying that morale was so low that the force needed someone new at the helm.

At the office block where the Lawrence inquiry sits, Sir Paul will run the gauntlet of angry demonstrators.

The public gallery will be packed for the spectacle of London's most senior police officer being quizzed by Sir

William and his three advisers. Stephen's parents, Neville and Doreen Lawrence, who have repeatedly called on the Commissioner to testify to the inquiry, are certain to be present.

Sir Paul, who in a speech soon after his appointment in 1992 pledged that the Met would be "totally intolerant" of racially-motivated crime, is expected to tell the tribunal that his 10-page submission repre-

sents an ambitious agenda for reform.

He believes the policy initiatives will be a stepping-stone on the road to regaining the confidence of London's black communities.

It is 17 years since a commissioner has been called upon to account for the actions of his officers in a similar forum. David McNeen gave evidence to Lord Scarman's inquiry into the 1981 Brixton riots.

'Why did they think we were criminals?'

WHEN TWO white men hurled racist abuse at Denese Mapp in a north London high street last April and threatened to stab her, she had no hesitation in calling the police. "I thought they would arrest the men," she says. "I thought they would protect us."

Instead, Ms Mapp alleges, Metropolitan Police officers assaulted her and her two sons, aged 10 and 12, and arrested her sister, Jacintha, for breach of the peace.

The two men, meanwhile, stood and watched. Police, she said, ignored bystanders who pointed them out.

"I keep asking myself how they could have got it so wrong," said Ms Mapp, 40, a college lecturer, who has described the incident in a submission to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

"We were two women and three children. Why did they assume we were the criminals?"

The explanation, she believes, is depressingly simple. They were black; everyone else at the scene was white. When police arrived, her 12-year-old son was agitated and upset. Despite his age and size - 4ft 7in tall - officers saw a young black male and, his mother claims, acted according to the well-worn stereotype.

Ms Mapp's story illustrates the daunting task facing Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, chairman of the Lawrence inquiry, as he and his advisers seek to identify the lessons to

be learnt from the police investigation of Stephen's murder. It has disturbing echoes of a case in Cardiff last year in which two black students were arrested after flagging down a police car while they were being attacked by a racist gang. Officers sprayed one of the students with CS gas.

Charges were eventually dropped because the episode had been filmed by closed-circuit cameras.

Ms Mapp was driving Jacintha and her 12-year-old daughter home on a Sunday evening after they and her sons had all spent the day together, eating lunch and watching a cricket match on television.

On the way, they stopped outside a mini-market, where the confrontation with the two men took place. They kicked Ms Mapp's car, shouted racist obscenities at her and her elder son, and threatened to "blade" them both, she alleges. She went into the shop and called police and a few minutes later, nine officers arrived in a van.

"They got out and went straight for my 12-year-old," she said.

"Two of them grabbed him under the arms and slammed him against the shutters of the shop. I had an overwhelming feeling of panic. Everything seemed to be happening in slow motion. I ran over and pointed at the white men, explaining that they had attacked us. Two policemen got hold of



Denese Mapp with her two sons. "I can't believe that something like this can happen in 1998"

Keith Dobney

me and pinned me against the wall. My other boy, the 10-year-old, tugged at the arm of one of the officers, telling him to let me go. The officer elbowed him in the forehead and knocked him to the ground.

"The police were threatening to arrest the elder boy. He was hysterical, and my sister tried to pull him away from them.

"They grabbed her by the hair and swung her around. Then I saw them putting handcuffs on her."

At the local station, where Jacintha was released without charge, Ms Mapp had the boys' injuries - cuts and bruises - recorded by a police doctor. They were also examined by the family's GP.

Determined to take action against the officers, she contacted the area police complaints unit and enlisted the support of her MP and local council leader.

But before she could make a statement, the police arrest-

ed one of her two alleged assailants on the basis of the information that she had given them. She was told that her complaint could not be investigated until the man had stood trial because there was a risk of prejudicing his case - an argument rejected by her solicitor, Clifford Tibber, who says that the two incidents are completely separate.

As time passes, the prospect of redress appears to become increasingly remote. Moreover,

the six-month deadline for a criminal prosecution to be brought against the police officers in a magistrates' court is about to expire.

Ms Mapp is horrified that the officers continue to serve in one of the most racially mixed areas of London.

Her sons, who had never experienced racism before, are scarred by the experience. "They were in a terrible state for weeks," she said.

"When we went to the Not-

ting Hill Carnival recently, they were really nervous to see all the policemen there."

Sitting in her kitchen, flicking through a bulging file about the case, Ms Mapp said: "I am totally shattered. I just can't believe that something like this can happen here in 1998."

Scotland Yard said last weekend: "Internal investigations take second place to criminal or civil proceedings. Once a criminal trial is over, the complaint will go ahead."

Public forums to look at race policies

AFTER shining a harsh spotlight on the police investigation of Stephen Lawrence's murder, the public inquiry this week moves into its second, more reflective phase.

Over the next two months Sir William Macpherson and his team will consider what recommendations to make to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, to prevent the mistakes highlighted by the investigation.

Repeated in the future about the

They have already written nearly 100 written submissions. Most On Thursday, they will reveal the first of a series of 70-year-old meetings at which spelt out into will be questioned about human policy proposals.

Although their remit is to consider measures to improve the prosecution and investigation of racially-motivated crimes, they will also address the wider context of policing in black communities.

Sir William believes that the first part of the inquiry exposed a crisis of confidence in the police. His report will take account of concerns such as the disproportionately high rate of young black men stopped and searched by police.

The first public meeting will be held at Elephant and Castle, south London, where the tribunal will question representatives from the Home Office, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Black Police Association.

It will then move on to Ealing and Tower Hamlets, before visiting Manchester, Bradford and Bristol. Sir William's report is due to be published early next year.

KATHY MARKS



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PEUGEOT
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Spy fiasco cost Britain 50 agents

BY PAUL LASEMAR
AND CHRIS STAECK

DETAILS OF Britain's worst intelligence disaster of the Second World War have finally been released, revealing how Special Operations Executive (SOE) networks in Holland were penetrated by the Germans, resulting in the capture of more than 50 agents. Most were executed.

Documents released by the Public Record Office in Kew, and suppressed until now, also show that SOE's rivals in MI6 under the legendary "C", Sir Stewart Menzies, tried to use the crisis to absorb the Special Operations Executive.

Only five years ago a dispute erupted after it was discovered that documents on the affair had been "removed and destroyed" by Downing Street officials. Whitehall was accused of a cover-up of one of the most shameful incidents of undercover wartime operations.

David Stafford, author of *Churchill and Secret Service*, published last year, said yesterday: "This is an important release on a terrible tragedy that nearly killed SOE. It encouraged all those in Whitehall who wanted to take over SOE and they came close. It was only Churchill's intervention and commitment to SOE that saved it."

Churchill had set up the SOE in 1940 to "set Europe ablaze", by helping the resistance movements in occupied countries. At its peak it had some 10,000 men and 3,200 women working for it, running

and arranging resistance sabotage behind the lines. The organisation's success, especially in the Netherlands, was by far the worst.

Major Charles Blizard, who led the SOE's Dutch section, was replaced by those for Bingham. The SOE's "Plan for Holland" agents started to be parachuted into the Netherlands in the summer of 1944. Among one of the first to be parachuted in, on a rainy night, was Thjis

sonis, a trained saboteur, and his wireless operator, Hubert Lauwers. The German security police then penetrated the embryonic Dutch underground movement and a stool pigeon informed on Lauwers, who was captured early in March 1942.

He was forced to transmit messages to SOE in London but was confident that SOE in London would spot a false security check. Unfortunately it did not. Shortly afterwards it told him to receive another agent.

"Watercross" arrived on 27 March. He was captured and the process went on as further agents arrived. The lack of radio security checks was ignored by SOE in London. It was even stupid enough to radio back to one operator: "You



German soldiers in the Netherlands, where organised resistance was wrecked by British blunders

Topham



'Sprout' and 'Chive', Pieter Diepenbroek and Johan Ubbing, who alerted SOE after escaping from a concentration camp. They were then imprisoned in London

PRO

MESSE. BLUNT BINGHAM ANQ SUCCS LTD LONDON IN THE LAST TIME
YOU ARE TRYING TO MAKE BUSINESS IN NETHERLANDS WITHOUT OUR
ASSISTANCE STOP WE THINK THIS RATHER UNFAIR IN VIEW OUR LONG
AND SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION AS YOUR SOLE AGENTS STOP BUT
NEVER MIND WHEN EVER YOU WILL COME TO PAY A VISIT TO THE
CONTINENT YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT YOU WILL BE RECEIVED WITH
SAME CARE AND RESULT AS ALL THOSE YOU SENT US BEFORE STOP
SO LONG

Lieutenant-Colonel Giskes' mocking message to London on April Fool's Day, 1944

were shot down in the process. (A later War Cabinet note observed that RAF losses on these missions had been "abnormally high".)

The phoney network was finally revealed to London after the escape from Haaren concentration camp in August 1943 of two SOE agents, Pieter Diepenbroek and Johan Ubbing - "Sprout" and "Chive".

Files in the Public Record Office contain the deceptions of "Sprout" and "Chive", which make clear that the Germans had controlled the Dutch "Underground" movement for more than 18 months.

The Germans realised that their double-cross network had been blown. Giskes signed off

with this message to London on April Fool's Day 1944:

"Messrs. Blunt, Bingham and Successors, Ltd. London. In the last time you are trying to make business in the Netherlands without our assistance. We think this rather unfair in view of our long and successful co-operation as your sole agents. But never mind, when you come to pay a visit to the Continent you may be assured that you will be received with the same care and result as all those you sent before. So long!"

The files also show the courageous "Sprout" and "Chive" were locked up in Brixton Prison upon their return to London in case they

were German double agents.

"Sprout" and "Chive" were convinced that the Germans had helped Major Bingham, then the Dutch section's head. "No one else was in such a good position to 'play ball' with the enemy," Chive told his MI6 interviewers.

The British author of the memo was clearly angered by the assertion. The two had had the temerity to make allegations against a British officer, "which it is fair to say they have failed to substantiate". The two were later released and allowed to join the Dutch Armed Forces.

The SOE post-mortem examination shows that serious doubts had been raised about

the network as early as July 1942 but the warning had been ignored by the section's chief. "Not only, however, does there appear to have been a failure to look the facts squarely in the face but also failure when suspicion had once been aroused to test suspicions."

Major Blizard had gone by the time of the demerit. Major Bingham was posted Australia.

The Germans' chief gain from the fiasco was that until just before D-day they thwarted all attempts to build a Dutch resistance movement into Allied plans and to equip it ready for action.

Several files on the SOE in Holland are still withheld.

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RAC women seek payout

BY LINUS GREGORIADES

THE RAC Club, which is selling its breakdown services to an American company for £450m, has been accused of sex discrimination for refusing to pay women members a £35,000 windfall that will go to their male counterparts.

"Lady executive members" at the 12,000-strong club are considering taking legal action after being told they are not entitled to a payout that will be given to "full members" under the RAC's sale of its motoring services division to Candant.

Stephen Alexander, a senior partner at Class Law, the solicitors' firm representing the women, said yesterday: "This may be in breach of European human rights. It is contrary to natural justice to discriminate against people merely because they are women. As far as I am aware this is the largest case of financial loss ever suffered by anyone purely on the grounds of sex."

Gill Carrick, who joined the 100-year-old gentlemen's club 14 years ago, is one of 11 "lady executives" who always considered themselves to be full members. Ms Carrick, of the head-hunting company Goddard Kay Rogers, joined as a corporate member when it was trying to raise money for its Pall

Mall headquarters. After the club stopped accepting corporate members, Ms Carrick understood that she - like her male colleagues - had become a full member. She said yesterday: "I have always regarded myself as a full member and I have only paid my subscription. I feel they have misled me."

Catherine Needham, vice-president of investor relations at the investment bank Salomon Smith Barney, is in the same position. She said: "I have been a member since 1981. It never occurred to me that I was not a full member. I have been paying the same rate as the men."

Edmund King, of the RAC, said yesterday that the women were not entitled to any money because they were not full members. He said that it was nothing to do with their sex.

He added: "The legal case is quite clear. Ms Carrick doesn't have a leg to stand on. She was never a full member."

Overseas members of the club who have been excluded from the payout and widows of full members have also protested against the decision. The High Court has ruled that only full members of the RAC Club are eligible for the £35,000.

IN BRIEF

Teachers on collision course with Labour over 10 per cent pay rise

THE BIGGEST teachers' union demanded a 10 per cent pay rise yesterday for classroom staff. The claim, put to the School Teachers' Pay Review Body, will place the National Union of Teachers at odds with the Government, which insists that all public sector pay deals must be affordable. Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, contrasted the claim with the 34 per cent rise awarded to the chief inspector of schools, Chris Woodhead, last week.

Farmers block motorways

QUEUES BUILT up on motorways into South Wales yesterday when protesting farmers blocked access to bridges across the Severn. About a hundred cars crawled over the main crossing as farmers walked in front. The drivers planned to pay their tolls in pennies.

Hunt for causes of leukaemia

BRITISH SCIENTISTS are about to embark on the world's biggest study to pinpoint the causes of leukaemia. A three-year study of 4,000 people, led by Dr Gareth Morgan at Leeds University, will focus on the way the body breaks down blood-borne poisons in the liver.

Actress Patricia Hayes dies

PATRICIA HAYES, the comic actress and star of many popular television shows, died on Saturday at 88. Miss Hayes, whose career spanned 70 years, won a British Academy Award in 1973 for her role in the television play *Edna, the Inebriate Woman*.

£12m jackpot on Wednesday

THERE WERE NO winners of Saturday's £9.1 million National Lottery jackpot, said the operators Camelot, so the cash will roll over to Wednesday, when the top prize will be an estimated £12 million. Nine tickets matched five numbers and the bonus ball to each win £1.9 million.

Duchess of York's mother killed

THE DUCHESS of York returned to Britain from Italy yesterday after her mother, Susan Barrantes, died in a car crash in Argentina. The Duchess was expected to fly to Argentina last night to attend Mrs Barrantes' funeral.

Device May Increase Petrol Mileage by 22%

BOSTON - National Fuelsaver Corp. of Boston has developed a low cost automotive accessory called the Platinum Fuelsaver which is guaranteed to increase miles per gallon by 22%.

The increase in miles per gallon comes from burning a higher percentage of the petrol inside the engine.

The average engine burns only 68% of its fuel. The remaining unburnt 32% is emitted as carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon pollution.

Many countries require the automakers to burn this pollution before it leaves the tailpipe by installing catalytic converters. (Converters are silencers whose

inside surfaces have been coated with platinum catalyst, the best known material for making unburnt fuel burn.)

Unfortunately, the converter process takes place outside of the engine, where the heat and energy produced from burning this pollution cannot be harnessed to drive the vehicle.

The Fuelsaver improves the catalytic converter technology by adding the platinum catalyst, via a vacuum line, to the air-fuel mixture entering the engine.

With platinum catalyst inside the combustion chambers of the engine, you burn 90% of the fuel inside the engine, instead of only 68%.

With 22% more of each gallon burning inside the engine fewer gallons are required to drive the same distance.

After reviewing this technology, the U.S. government concluded: "Independent testing shows greater petrol savings with the Fuelsaver than the 22% claimed by its developer."

Joel Robinson, the developer, commented: "We have sold over 350,000 Fuelsavers. To our surprise, as many people buy the Fuelsaver because it extends engine life (by cleaning out the abrasive carbon deposits) as buy it to increase miles per gallon."

For further information call: 0800-496-0518

TEST DATA

The U.S. government studied test data on vehicles made by several auto makers. Listed below is the data from a fleet of 15 identical 5-liter vehicles.

Vehicle No.	M.P.G.	M.P.G. Percentage Increase
59	14.4	21.3
63	13.5	19.9
51	16.9	24.8
51	15.6	22.5
56	14.6	20.5
64	11.5	15.9
60	15.9	21.5
65	11.7	15.7
50	13.0	16.7
58	17.2	26.1
62	16.9	21.1
66	19.0	21.0
57	17.3	19.1
54	15.7	16.8
65	15.5	13.5
Average	15.3	19.5

This advertisement appeared originally as editorial material in another newspaper.

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aproned in London. PM

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on April Fool's Day, 194

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BRIEF

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said that the pay rise was
a result of the company's
strong performance over
the last year.

otorways

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attract a higher level of
investment. The motor-
way industry is expected
to receive a significant
boost in the next few
years.

of leukaemia

and leukaemia. The study
found that the risk of
leukaemia was significantly
higher in people who
had been exposed to
radiation in the past.

Hayes dies

actor and comedian
Hayes died of a heart
attack at his home in
London. He was 78 years
old.

Wednesday

Wednesday, September
21, 1998. The weather
is expected to be
cloudy with some rain
in the evening.

's mother killed

The mother of a young
boy who was killed in
a car crash last week
has been identified.

USE DATE

Fayed's £1m anti-sleaze trust closed

A TRUST set up by Mohamed al Fayed with £1m to clean up British politics has been struck off for failing to file its accounts. The trust, established just before last year's election, boasted a range of the great and good among its directors. They included two former Liberal Democrat MPs, David Alton - now Lord Alton - and Alex Carlisle, and an economics professor from the London School of Economics, Robert Nobay. The trust's full-time secretary was Christopher Graffius, a former researcher for David Alton. Other directors included Michael Cole, Mr Fayed's press officer at the time, and Andrew Neil, former editor of *The Sunday Times*. Mr Fayed announced he was putting £1m into the project and others working with it believed he was prepared to give up to £2m in the longer term. During last year's general election campaign, the organisation sent mailshots calling for higher standards in public life to one in five electors. It also asked candidates to sign pledges that they would not take "backhanders" from businessmen to act for them in the House of Commons or become slaves to their party whips. At a meeting earlier this year, Mr Fayed, owner of Harrods, agreed to transform the organisation into a think-tank, which would produce policy papers and seek other sources of funding to enable it to become self-financing. He placed one of his own accountants, Robert Fallowfield, on the board of the trust but it did not fulfil its obligations under the Companies Act. Companies House records show that two reminders were sent and a notice placed in the *London Gazette* in May, but with no response. The People's Trust Ltd was dissolved and lost its legal right to trade as a company at the beginning of this month. Last night a spokesman for Mr Fayed said the failure to file accounts had been a simple error. "It appears there has been an administrative oversight on the part of our legal representatives. That being the case, we will look to rectify this on Monday morning," he said. Others said Mr Fayed had lost interest in the trust after the death of his son Dodi in the car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales. Mr Carlisle said he had been on the verge of resigning from it. "It is something of a disappointment to me that the People's Trust ceased to function some months ago. At one time I thought it might become an important policy think-tank." Another director said he feared Mr Fayed wanted to use it to dig up "sleaze" rather than to take a positive approach to raising standards in politics. Although Mr Fayed is believed to have used the trust in recent months for one or two minor ventures such as supporting an employee's legal case against his former employer, Mr Graffius was not replaced after he left in July 1997. The Conservatives described the organisation's collapse as "an extraordinary example of double standards." "They gave people the impression that they wished to impose higher standards in public life whilst failing to meet existing legal requirements themselves," said Christopher Chope, a trade and industry spokesman.



Devon members of the Ramblers' Association walking on Dartmoor yesterday as part of a nationwide protest for right-to-roam legislation. Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, pledged to support ramblers if landowners deny them access for no good reason. Marc Hill

'MI6 plotted to kill Milosevic'

JOHN WADHAM, the lawyer for the former MI6 officer Richard Tomlinson, will today hand the Government a dossier of allegations of "illegal activities" by the secret service. They include a sensational plan to assassinate Serbia's leader, Slobodan Milosevic. One of the methods considered was to disorientate the Serbian strongman's driver in a tunnel in Geneva with a strobe light. Mr Tomlinson said the officer responsible ought to be charged with conspiracy to murder. Mr Wadham said he hoped the file would prompt Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to start an investigation. But he said that was "naïvely" given the Government's pursuit of another former spy, the ex-MI5 agent David Shayler, who is in a Paris jail awaiting extradition to Britain to face prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. Papers will be handed to the Treasury Solicitor, to be passed on to Mr Cook and the former Tory Defence Secretary Tom King, chair of the Commons Security and Intelligence Select Committee. In his allegations, Mr Tomlinson said he came across the plan to kill Mr Milosevic quite casually, while working as an undercover agent in eastern Europe during the height of the Bosnian war in 1992-93. In a conversation with a colleague, he "pulled out a document from a file on his desk, tossed it over to me, and suggested I read it." "To my astonishment, it was a proposal to assassinate President Milosevic of Serbia." "It was approximately two pages long, and had a yellow card attached to it which signified that it was an accountable document rather than a draft proposal. It was entitled 'The need to assassinate President Milosevic of Serbia'." The proposed three methods to assassinate Mr Milosevic were: train a Serbian paramilitary opposition group to assassinate Mr Milosevic in Serbia; send the SAS in to infiltrate Serbia and attack Mr Milosevic with a bomb or sniper ambush, or kill Mr Milosevic in a staged car crash, possibly one of his visits to a committee, which scrutinised the security services. Mr Wadham said the paper would be passed to the Treasury Solicitor to ensure it reached their destinations "by secure route". Mr Tomlinson served six months in jail for breaching the Official Secrets Act and is now in Switzerland. Mr Wadham said no proceedings were pending against him.

Victims of the system

IT SEEMS that to attend a Spice Girls concert you have to be one of the following:

- a) a girl aged between 5 and 15 armed with Spice rucksack, banner and T-shirt, or
- b) a father, indulging your little darling while trying not to look up Victoria's scandalously short skirt.

With a string of No 1 hits, the Spice Girls can be forgiven a few weaknesses, none of which was due to the absence of Ginger, aka Geri Halliwell. In fact the four-some seamlessly assimilated Geri's contributions into their routines. But the sound quality did the Girls few favours as their voices often became either muffled or piercingly shrill. With her stock of frightening expressions, Mel C (Sporty) gave the most energetic performance though her voice, regarded as the most capable, was often rasping. Baby, aka Emma Bunton - famous feistiness with an exhilarating duet with Mel C of "Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves". Victoria didn't get a solo or even a duet. As she reached for the high notes in "2 Become 1", her voice fell off key and faded away, and she resorted to that eerie MacLeans grin that doesn't seem to extend beyond her mouth. But the dads were in for a treat as the Girls performed "Naked" on back-to-front chairs without, it seemed, any clothes on, while the Latin rattle-rouser "Spice Up Your Life" even had the security guards dancing in the aisles. From the cabaret send-up of "The Lady is a Vamp" to the sickly sweet "Mama", the Spices displayed a versatility and energy that puts them up among the giants of stadium rock. The rest could do worse than watch and learn. FIONA STURGES

FIRST NIGHT SPICE GIRLS WEMBLEY STADIUM



Posh Spice: a wide grin hid the off-key notes

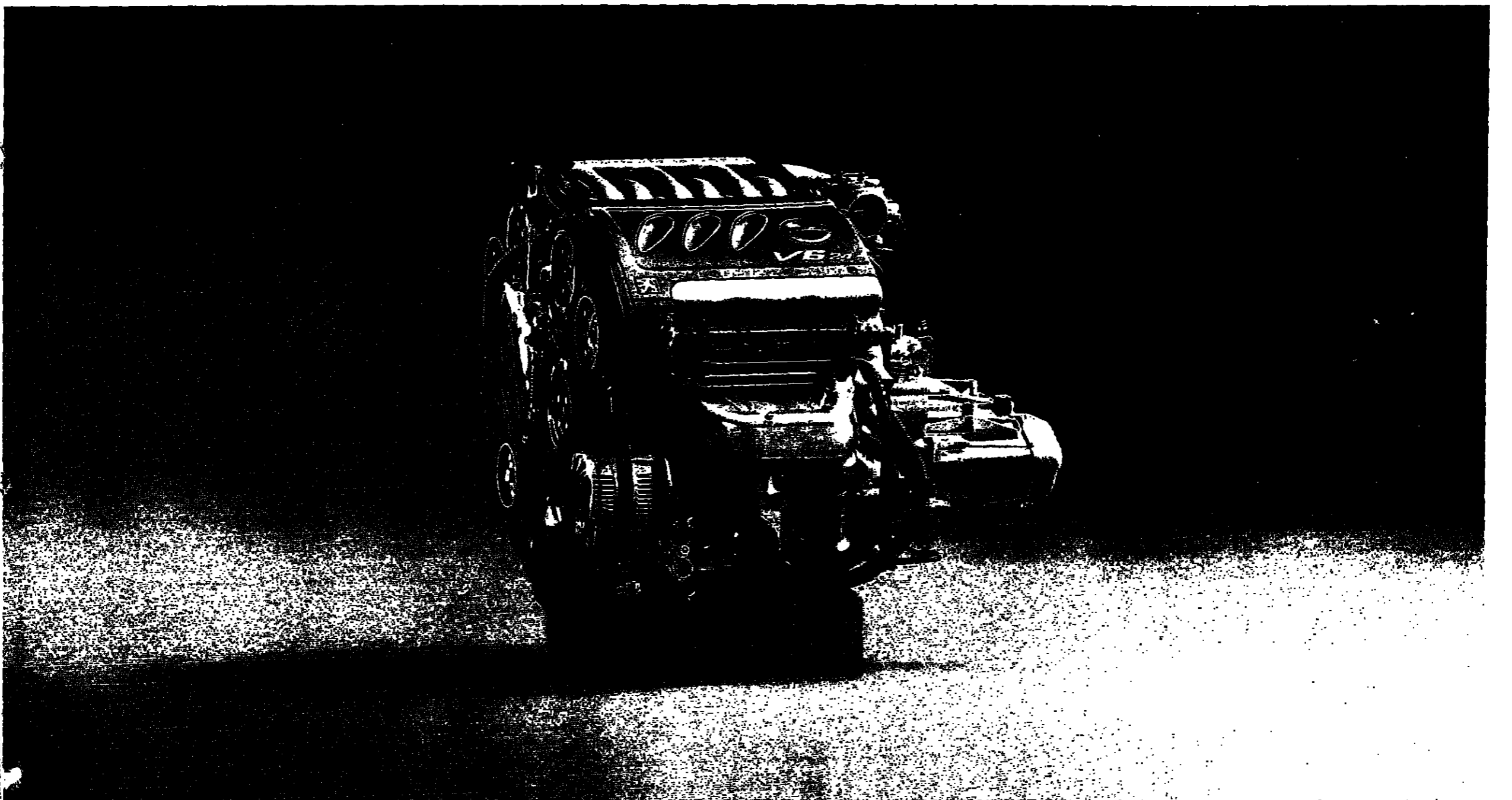
sporting a dress emblazoned with a glittering E that, on any other pop star, would cause speculation about drug use - was every inch the cute, caring Spice with her chinwags, tresses and girly voice. Even Scary got to show off her

Police to intercept e-mail

INTERNET USERS sending digitised pictures of their children to friends could be labelled suspected paedophiles by police, who aim to intercept private e-mails without a warrant. The Association of Chief Police Officers is drawing up a "memorandum of understanding" to give them access to copies of e-mail and details of users' activities from UK Internet Service Providers (ISPs) serving eight million. Civil liberties groups say this would breach privacy in terms of the European Convention on Human Rights, and that ISPs are being coerced into cooperation - using the threat of effective closure by police confiscation of their computers if they do not accede. While the police say privately the measure is needed to catch paedophiles and criminals, critics believe it could lead to "fishing expeditions." "Our industry is having... to reveal things as a matter of course that other businesses would not do without a court order," said one ISP manager. The police are exploiting the 1994 Interception of Communications Act because most ISPs do not meet the statute's meaning of a telecoms company. The 1994 Data Protection Act also allows the police access to electronic data if it is "needed for the prevention of crime."

Forklift crushes boy to death at sawmill

A TEENAGE boy died yesterday when a forklift truck toppled over and crushed him, police said. Detectives are now investigating his death at Caerwys sawmill in Afon-wen, North Wales. Two men aged 18 and 21 have been arrested. Emergency services were called to the mill at 2am to find the boy aged 16, trapped under the forklift truck, which had overturned. Paramedics battled to free him but the teenager from Holywell, North Wales, died at the scene. Police would not speculate on the circumstances surrounding the death and a Home Office pathologist has been informed. The two men who were arrested are being questioned at Mold police station.



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Moves to recruit women MPs fail

FRESH MOVES to attract more women MPs through positive discrimination were rejected by an overwhelming majority of Liberal Democrats yesterday, despite a plea by Baroness Shirley Williams to end the "old boys network" at Westminster.

Over two thirds of activists voted against a change to the party's constitution to drive up the number of women MPs - from just three out of 46 - at the opening debate at the party's annual conference in Brighton.

Candidates would have been selected through a process of "clustering" or dividing constituencies into groups of three, with at least one, but no more than two female candidates in each group. Seats held by Liberal Democrat MPs would have been included in the clusters, but sitting MPs would have been safe from deselection.

Baroness Williams, a founder member of the SDP, passionately warned that continued opposition to positive action would be seen by the electorate as being "out of touch". She said:

"Those who say positive discrimination will not work because they do not want to get more women on to the political stage are just providing more training and education. The position... is not going to change until we address the issue of discrimination. Let the old boys' network at the House of Commons."

Steve Hinchins, a councillor for Islington, North London, said it would be "liberal", not change a distortion in the democratic system. It is our role as Liberals to promote change and reduce social injustice."

But many activists condemned the motion, that was tabled by a block of 20 delegates, as "fundamentally illiberal, unworkable and undemocratic", stressing that constituencies should have the right to choose their own candidates.

CONSTITUTION
By SARAH SCHAEFER
in Brighton

"It would be ridiculous and against our principles as Liberals because it could drive out long standing and experienced male, would-be candidates," said one member.

The motion was the second time since the 1997 election that steps to improve the representation of women in the party was overturned. Activists pointed to last year's conference in Eastbourne when a move to get equal numbers of men and women short-listed for Parliament was also rejected. But last year's conference did agree overwhelmingly to introduce measures to guarantee more women candidates for next June's Euro elections by introducing the "zipping" system, whereby male and female candidates are alternated on party lists in proportional representation elections.

Nan Kirsan, leader of North Somerset district council, said: "I don't want to be selected because I'm a woman, I want to be selected because I'm the best man for the job." Brian Orrell, Kensington and Chelsea, London, condemned clustering as a "sure-fire recipe for disharmony" and "entirely impractical".

Lisa Whellmans, from Newbury in Berkshire, warned the scheme could prevent capable women from being selected in some constituencies, while inferior males were picked in their place. "The truth is there are just not enough women candidates available. The reality is that the party needs more women on the approved list of candidates."

After the debate, Alison Ryan, an equality campaigner, said the defeat of the motion was a "real missed opportunity... the Liberal Democrats were the only major party not to increase the proportion of women MPs at the last election".



The Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown and his wife Jane taking a stroll in Brighton yesterday before the start of his party's annual conference

John Voos

'I am still ambitious so I wouldn't rule out standing to succeed Paddy'

CHARLES KENNEDY has his sights on the leadership of the Liberal Democrats.

He is prepared to bide his time, accepting that Paddy Ashdown is the party's strongest electoral asset. But after the general election, his hat will be in the ring. "I am ambitious for the cause and ambitious for politics. I would not rule anything out, and anything in," he said.

Mr Kennedy, the party's agriculture spokesman, said there would be no attempt to oust Mr Ashdown before the election, despite some disquiet in the party ranks over the leader's abandonment of "equidistance" from the two main parties.

David Steel in *The Independent* last week said any deal with Labour should be off, unless there was full-blown FR. But Mr Kennedy said: "It

INTERVIEW
By COLIN BROWN

seems to me that if you look at where the party started and where it got to now, and Paddy's ratings compared with Hague's, it would be sheer madness to consider replacing the leader in this Parliament. He should enjoy the fruits of his hard work, and in terms of leadership status, Mr Ashdown's ratings are four or five times more positive than Mr Hague's. For a third party, that is an asset not to be thrown away."

After the election, he would stand for the leadership? "Yes," he said. "I would not rule it out." He supported Mr Ashdown's abandonment of equidistance between Labour and the Tories, in favour of the policy of "constructive opposition" to the Government. "We have got to be cautious... but I think we are sufficiently cautious."

Nevertheless, the differences with Mr Ashdown could become a chasm, depending on how Mr Ashdown plays the report of the Jenkins commission on proportional representation. "It strikes me that we are



Charles Kennedy, Liberal Democrat MP has his sights set on party leadership

Credit: Keith Dobney

correct to be pursuing constructive opposition with Labour and co-operation on constitutional reform. That is obviously delivering goods and is worthwhile.

"We want to maintain that. But I don't think that is at all in-

compatible with also keeping a wary eye on what is going on with the Tories."

He listed two reasons for focusing on the Tories. First, if there was any way back for them as a credible national political force, they would have to

take the fight to the Liberal Democrats to win back seats, and second, now that William Hague has decided on the internal referendum on the euro - "the first serious mistake of Hague's leadership", it would deepen, not heal, wounds in the Tory party.

"I think the position has developed in the last fortnight with this referendum decision, and given that Clarke and Heseltine are not going to come to heel, the Tories are going to be divided over Europe over the remainder of the Parliament. That gives us an opportunity to make progress at their expense."

Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has little time for Mr Kennedy's approach. He accuses the Liberal Democrats of playing teenage politics, attacking Labour when it suits them, while at the same time serving on the joint cabinet committee on the constitution. But Mr Kennedy is not troubled by this criticism: "There are differences of emphasis between us," he said, relaxing on the terrace of the Commons.

"We are not left of Labour

and I certainly agree with that; there is no future for us posing as more left than Labour. But we are ahead of them."

"I think that is liable to be a more attractive formula with a lot of those potentially available, disaffected Conservative voters."

Like a number of Liberal Democrat MPs, he does not support the policy - to be the subject of a crucial vote at this week's conference - to remove education from local government, where the Liberal Democrats have many councillors.

"In the Scottish education perspective, that would not have many takers. It is controversial and I am sure that the senior councillors and chairmen of education committees will have plenty to say about it."

"I think that we are correct to focus more on the quality of outcome that is to be achieved in state provision, and not solely input with tax. We are right to be thinking fairly liberated thoughts. I am not entirely sure myself on this one that the party will go down this route. My hunch is that it won't do. The platform could get defeated."

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Bargain break in Brighton

THE GLITZY £500 fund-raising dinners are happening elsewhere, and the chances of finding a lobbyist's champagne reception are slim. But there are rewards on offer at this week's Brighton jamboree: recruit a member to the Women Liberal Democrats and you could win a lunch with Paddy!

The One Plus One Membership initiative will not pay the six-figure bill for the conference due to land on the doormat at the party's Cowley Street headquarters, though. And someone has to pay. The party's treasurer says the event pays for itself despite attracting fewer of the hangers-on who frequent the Labour and Conservative annual gatherings.

In conference terms, this is cut-price stuff. The Liberal Democrats have a £500,000 budget for not just one annual conference, but two. Once this week is over, preparations start for a spring weekend gathering in Edinburgh.

But there is still the Brighton

FUND-RAISING

By FRANK ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

conference centre to hire, stewards to pay and photocopyers to lease. There are mailshots to send at between £10,000 and £20,000 a time, and the conference hotel must be booked up for the week.

The set will be a repeat of last year's, an understated little number in subtle grey and gold. But even just transporting and building it will cost £30,000. The other parties spend up to £200,000 on their stages, and the Lib Dems reckon they could employ two party workers for a year, just for the price of the video screen Labour uses.

Most of the money comes in from firms and pressure groups that rent exhibition space in the conference centre. This year there will be 87 of these paying up to £5,500 each, though many charities and party organisations receive discounts. Even so, they cover

more than £200,000 of the total conference bill. Among those who pay the full rate this year will be Manchester Airport, British Nuclear Fuels and the Police Federation.

Another chunk of the cost is covered by ticket sales to delegates or representatives, as they are known. About 2,000 pay a total of £100,000. The party's 46 MPs pay their own way, and a collection on the conference floor raises a few thousand.

A certain amount of flesh-peddling goes on. Foreign ambassadors come to be entertained by frontbenchers, and business people are offered special "away days" for £500 featuring lunch, an afternoon at the conference, drinks and an evening fringe meeting.

The Liberal Democrat treasurer Tim Razzall, who became Lord Razzall last year, said: "There is significantly more interest in us than there was 15 years ago. The days when we could go to Margate or Llandudno are long past."

CONFERENCE BRIEFS

Lord Rogers calls for tax rise

LORD ROGERS of Quarry Bank, the Liberal Democrat leader in the House of Lords, has called on Prime Minister Tony Blair to raise taxes and accused his Government of being "presidential and centralising", owing more to the "Thatcher years than to parliamentary tradition". He said Mr Blair would not be able to define a "third way" unless he accepted that "higher taxation had a moral justification in remedying the social divisions in our society".

Call for energy intervention

DAVID CHIDGEY, Liberal Democrat industry spokesman, called for Government intervention yesterday in the energy market so that the benefits would be brought to all customers. "It is not acceptable for low-income consumers to be denied the benefits of competition," he told a fringe meeting in Brighton.

Today's business

- A debate on constitutional affairs including proportional representation moved by Robert Maclean, Liberal Democrat Constitutional Affairs spokesman.
- A debate on Northern Ireland, speakers will include the First Minister of Northern Ireland, David Trimble.
- In the afternoon, a debate on the reform of local government, moved by Liberal Democrat Labour government spokesman, Paul Burstow.
- A debate on social security policy, speakers include David Randel, Liberal Democrat social security spokesman.

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Boys hurt in backstreet circumcisions

DOCTORS HAVE been warned of an emerging underground market in circumcision operations, with young boys exposed to the risk of being mutilated by untrained people.

Hospitals have reported a number of cases where doctors have had to deal with the horrendous results of operations that have gone wrong.

The problem is that while many people want their sons to

be circumcised for doctrinal or other reasons, a growing number of doctors will not perform the operation unless it is medically necessary. Some doctors see male circumcision as a form of child abuse.

A leading urologist has now warned that circumcision is in danger of going the same way as abortion once did, into the

back streets. "With the trend for urologists to refuse circumcision on demand, some people are being driven away from trained surgeons into alternative sectors where quality and safety is variable," Guy Dawkins, specialist registrar at the Institute of Urology at the Middlesex Hospital, said in a letter to the British Medical Association *News Review*.

"We must not let circumci-

sion falls into unskilled hands in the way that abortion did. The problem has to be addressed."

Yesterday Mr Dawkins said he and colleagues had treated a number of cases where problems had arisen. "From time to time most urologists have to sort out a child who has had a circumcision done for non-medical reasons."

"There are a lot of non-medical circumcisions, and

while the rabbits do a good job, some of the other circumcisions are sub-optimal."

"Surgeons are getting more conservative because we are having to account, quite rightly, for the morbidity we create. Circumcision is an operation and carries a risk. You may therefore be exposing a child to unnecessary risks."

"The problem is that there are parents who are demand-

ing it, and who will go elsewhere. They may approach a surgeon in the private sector and get the same reaction, and then approach people who make themselves available for doing these things who are not trained as surgeons."

"We don't know who they are, but we see the effects. It is not yet a big problem, but when you see a nine-year-old child whose penis has been chopped about

and glans cropped off, you have to question who would have had that done to a child."

Some doctors fear the problem will get worse because of the trend against circumcision, including campaigns by some pressure groups.

"Circumcision as a medical treatment is unnecessary, ineffective and harmful. It is not good practice to cut off the foreskin when no treatment is

needed," said John Dalton, archivist of the National Organisation of Restoring Men, also writing in the *BMA review*.

Dr Michael Wilks, chairman of the BMA medical ethics committee, said: "Whatever treatment doctors provide for children must be in their best interests. But assessment of best interests is not based only on what parents want for their children."

Airline fare wars move to the Web

WEB SITES are beginning to usurp travel agents, with two of Britain's low-cost airlines, easyJet and Go, the British Airways subsidiary, escalating their battle for market share by moving into cyberspace.

Go is to launch online booking for tickets on its Web site today, guaranteeing that for the first month any ticket will cost £100 return or less. Though easyJet has had its own Web booking facility for four months - leading James Rothney, a spokesman for easyJet, to deride Go's move as "British Airways copying us again" - the ability to book online with either company could be a milestone in the shift of airlines away from travel agents, and towards the individual buyer.

Cutting out intermediaries such as travel agents is essential to achieving low prices for both Go and easyJet.

British Airways, which has pumped £250m into Go, sells about 80 per cent of its tickets through travel agents. That costs it more than £500m in commission annually.

The airline war is the latest in a growing wave of "electronic commerce" battles being carried out over the Internet. Similar conflicts are taking place in the booktrade, where amazon.com, the "virtual bookshop", is taking on traditional chains such as Dillons in the UK and Barnes & Noble in the US and in housebuying, aided by electronic shop windows from estate agents.

easyJet takes most of its bookings over the phone, but the Web site is increasingly important. Last week 5 per cent of the 55,500 seats sold by the airline were via the Internet. Though that amounts to slightly over 2,100 seats, in some weeks up to 8 per cent of the tickets are bought on the Internet and the company aims to

sell 30 per cent via the Web by the end of 1999.

Both Go and easyJet avoid issuing tickets, instead sending out confirmation by e-mail, post or fax: the passenger then turns up at the airport with their passport. That alone offers a big saving, because distribution expenses make up 20 per cent of standard airlines' ticket costs.

British Midland, another BA subsidiary, was the first UK airline to offer online booking, in 1995. Although it is still limited in scope, online booking can allow electronic travel businesses to grow quickly because, once written, the computer code can do the same job as many human staff, does not need training and does not demand salary rises.

easyJet's Web site can sell tickets to 200 people at once - meaning that it could potentially handle more than half the company's business, as there are currently 150 staff available to answer the phone at the booking centre.

"A good reservation agent can do about 100 bookings per day," Mr Rothney said. "So at present our site is doing the work of four or five people. But the cost of the Internet distribution for us is much lower than by post. And it's not as if the site costs us anything when it's not being used."

"It also gives the consumer another advantage in that they can generate their own itinerary exactly."

Once the user has chosen a destination, date, and whether they want a standard or flexible fare, the Go site will let travellers see what seats are available, and will search for the lowest fare available.

Global alliance, page 15



Graham King relaxing in the bedroom where he keeps the witch's skeleton. He claims to have had 'many a fond chat' with her. *Paul Armiger*

Witches finally lay old Joan to rest

THE BODY of a Cornish witch who died in Bodmin Jail 185 years ago and which has been on public display for the past 40 years is soon to be laid to rest - possibly on Halloween - in a secret ritual involving a group of present-day witches.

Until recently Joan Wytte's skeleton hung unceremoniously in front of a coffin in the Museum of Witchcraft at Boscastle, north Cornwall. But when Graham King took over as curator two years ago he decided that Wytte, known as the

Fighting Fairy Woman of Bodmin Town on account of her size and vicious assaults, should be given a belated burial.

"I think she was persecuted enough during her life and it's wrong to continue that persecution through her death," said Mr King, 43, who is also a witch. "If you could see children looking round the museum, gawping at this skeleton, pointing and saying, 'Yuk. It's a witch', it doesn't seem right."

A number of poltergeist phenomena prompted Mr King to call in Cassandra Latham, Britain's first full-time professional witch, who lives near Land's End. Ms Latham says she contacted Wytte at a Halloween ritual last year.

"We wanted to find out what she wanted," Mr King said. "All sorts of stuff came across. We decided would take her out of the display and bury her somewhere in the woods." The exact place of burial will not be made public for fear of attracting

cranks who might try to dig her up. However, Mr King has a "magical spot" in mind and is seeking the local landlord's permission. "It's an absolutely beautiful place," he said, although it was not easy to ask someone: "Can I bury a witch in your back garden?"

The funeral ritual would be "very simple and respectful", Mr King said. "We are going to take out the metal that's tying her bones together very gently and carefully. We'll place the bones in a wicker basket lined

with wool which we have had made for the purpose ... We have some simple grave goods, too: a small bottle of brandy, a clay pipe, a bit of tobacco, and maybe some magic herbs to help her on her way."

Since April, Mr King has kept Wytte's body wrapped in blankets beside his bed, and he claims to have had "many a fond chat" with her. Once she has been laid to rest, however, he will make no further efforts to contact her - unless of course, "she wants to come to us".

BBC told to go for quality

BY JACKIE BURDON

IN THE week that the BBC launches its first digital channels, Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has warned that quality must come before quantity.

"It is important that more does not mean worse, which is why the BBC must continue to produce programmes that are a benchmark of quality," Mr Smith says in an interview published in the forthcoming edition of *Radio Times*.

BBC1, BBC2, BBC News 24 and a new channel, Choice, will be broadcasted from Wednesday channels and serv BSKyB is to launch channel satellite 5, October, when the first set-top boxes able to view free BBC channels available in the shops.

The Government is ing the role of the BBC, run-up to its next licence renewal.

Mr Smith says of the "It has been a cultural vu 50 years, not hesitating on challenging program: to break new ground in th news is reported. I'd hav rious criticisms if all it dic try to compete on ratings though it has held its audie share quite strongly."

Some critics have sugge that in the age of pay televisa the BBC licence fee should be replaced by an optional subscription. But Mr Smith says: "For the foreseeable future [the licence fee] must remain the cornerstone of BBC funding, although commercial income may supplement it."

"The justification for a licence fee in a multi-channel age is that the core public service broadcaster acts as a benchmark against which everyone is judged."

I don't Paddy

and I certainly agree with there is no future for us as more left than the we are ahead of them.

"I think that is likely more attractive for a lot of those potentially able, disaffected young voters."

Like a number of the moral MP's, he does not support the policy - a subject of a controversial week's conference on education from last week, where the Labour MPs have argued.

"In the Scottish perspective, there are many more in the universal and I am not senior councillors in men of education will have plenty to say."

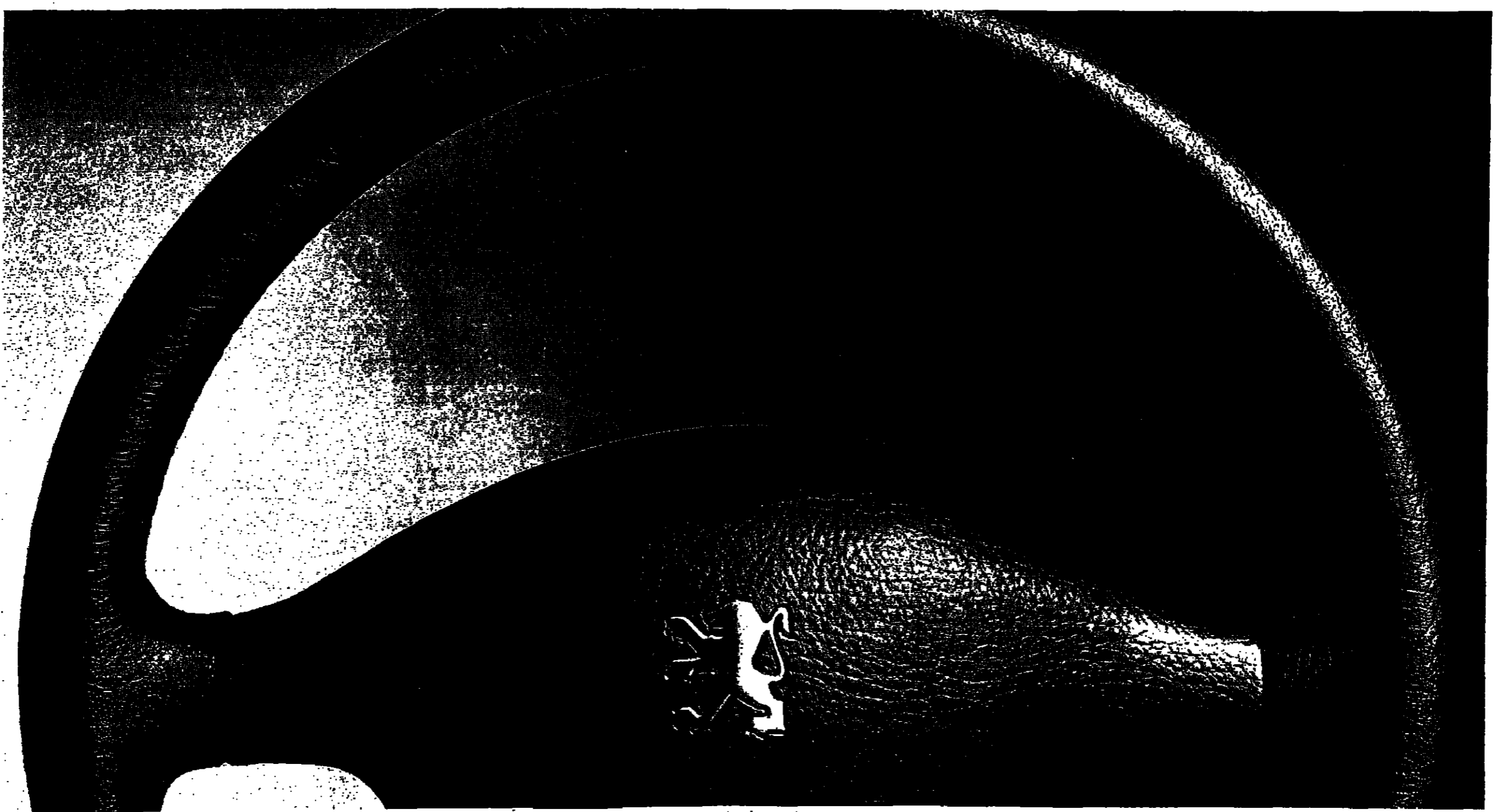
"I think that we to focus more on the outcome that is in state provision, to be thinking about the party will be about My husband is that The platform is defeated."

REFERENCE BRIEF

calls for tax rise (Quarry Bank, the head of the House of Lords, has called for a rise in taxes and a reduction in public and central government spending to parliament, a motion at the start of the debate on "Higher taxation and public financial discipline" was rejected.)

Energy intervention (Liberal Democrats are calling for intervention in the energy market so that the demand for gas is not over-supplied and the price is not too high.)

Business (The Liberal Democrats are calling for a reduction in the rate of corporation tax from 30 per cent to 25 per cent, and a reduction in the rate of income tax from 40 per cent to 35 per cent.)



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Clinton's remorse may gain sympathy

WHEN THE tape of the President answering questions under oath from the White House Map Room is broadcast to the American public and the world today, the dominant image of Bill Clinton that emerges will be one of embarrassment, remorse and subdued anger, according to lawyers familiar with the tape.

This version of Mr Clinton's performance contradicts the universally negative accounts of his grand jury testimony circulating at the end of last week, and may reflect White House efforts to draw the sting of today's unprecedented broadcast in advance.

A detailed account of the contents of the four-hour-twelve-minute tape, published in yesterday's *New York Times*, contended that Mr Clinton could attract more sympathy from today's airing of the tape than was hitherto allowed.

Rather than the argumentative, furiously self-righteous, egotistically evasive figure of the past, the newspaper position is saying Mr Clinton is seen by many genuinely

of conduct and for of risk, a White House saying once, all: "I'd give any world to not admit to testify today."

He apparently generated concern for Ms Clinton's reputation with their treatment. "Monica was kept by your lawyers and five and FBI agents," he says. He describes his efforts to get on with her life. "I've been trying to silence," he said, he could have a White House job as listed, but he did not.

One especially harmful sequence is said to show Mr Clinton quibbling with one of the

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

New York Times also printed what it said was a verbatim text of Mr Clinton's short opening statement to the grand jury.

In the statement, Mr Clinton admits to being alone with Ms Lewinsky, to conduct "that was wrong", and to "inappropriate intimate encounters" that "did not consist of sexual intercourse" and "did not constitute sexual relations as I understood that term to be defined".

President Clinton said: "I regret that what began as a friendship came to include this conduct. And I take full responsibility for my actions." But he also pleaded to keep further details private, both for the sake of his family and "to preserve the dignity of the office I hold."

The *New York Times* report coincided with the appearance of White House aides on television talkshows, all trying to talk down the shock-effect of the videotape. While deploring the House judiciary committee's decision to make the tape public, they lambasted the report of the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, as one-sided and unfair and insisted that little new would emerge from Mr Clinton's testimony.

While the "softer" accounts of Mr Clinton's performance may have some truth, and indicate that the tape's impact on the American public could be more complex than forecast, it remained clear that the broadcast could be highly damaging to the President. That damage, however, might derive less from the sexual revelations than from Mr Clinton's attitude under questioning.

One especially harmful sequence is said to show Mr Clinton quibbling with one of the



Bill Clinton greeting the crowd at a dinner for black politicians, where he thanked black Americans for 'standing up for me' *Greg Gibson*

prosecution team about the definition of "the whole truth" in the oath that he has just sworn. It was also noted yesterday that none of the White House officials who has spoken since publication of the Starr report has questioned any of its findings.

Broadcasting organisations and Internet services spent much of yesterday preparing for a transmission that is unprecedented, both in its content

and potential political significance. It is believed to be the first time that television will have transmitted material that is not live, but whose content is not known precisely in advance.

Four United States cable networks are to broadcast the video without editing and without commercial breaks, as soon as it is released - probably at 8pm East Coast time today. The major US networks have undertaken to broadcast Mr

Clinton's opening statement, and edited passages thereafter, keeping considerations of taste and the public interest in mind.

Some television executives expressed relief that the tape had not been released at a weekend, when children would be home from school, but there was unhappiness in some quarters at the coincidence of the broadcast with Jewish New Year.

More than 2,800 pages of

documentation provided to the Starr investigation will also be released simultaneously with the videotape, and staff at congressional and government printing offices were working throughout the weekend to ensure that it would be ready on time.

The material is believed to include much of Ms Lewinsky's testimony, including more graphic accounts of sexual acts, including her orgasms, than ap-

peared in the Starr report. Other items will be e-mails sent by Ms Lewinsky to friends about her relationship; romantic letters she drafted on her own; but did not send - to the President; transcripts of telephone interviews left by Mr Clinton on her answering machine; and the verbatim testimony of other key witnesses, including Mr Clinton's personal secretary and "gatekeeper", Betty Currie.

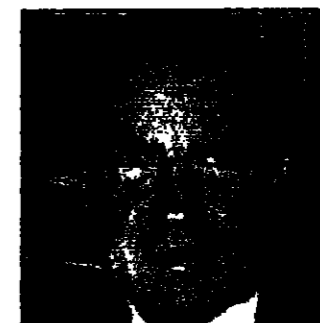
Echo of Nixon's fall from power

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

OF THE many parallels that have been drawn between the Watergate scandal, which ultimately felled the late Richard Nixon, and the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal that threatens Bill Clinton, none has more resonance than the role played by tape recordings.

In Nixon's case, it was tapes he kept of conversations from the Oval Office; in Mr Clinton's case, the tapes secretly recorded by Linda Tripp and the videotape of the President's testimony to the grand jury.

In the Nixon case, Congress fought up to the Supreme Court



Nixon: Tapes his downfall

to gain access to the original tapes, refusing along the way to be satisfied with transcripts.

The surrender of the Nixon tapes, which was ordered on 28 July 1974, is seen by historians as a turning point, not only in the decision of Congress to impeach the President, but also with public opinion, which had hitherto preferred to keep his difficulties at arms' length.

For Congress, the key was the tape of 23 June, 1972, which proved that Mr Nixon had tried to involve the CIA against the FBI in the cover-up of the Watergate break-in.

With public opinion, however, it was the unexpectedly coarse tone of the President's discourse, plus the fact that the transcripts were peppered with the infamous phrase, "expletive deleted", that is credited with sending Mr Nixon's support plummeting and convincing him that he could not survive in office. His resignation took effect on 9 August, 1974.

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Video causes panic in both camps

'We have two Democratic parties now'

AS THE White House battles to contain Republican rhetoric on Capitol Hill, a second campaign has been initiated. Its purpose is to persuade wavering Democrats in Congress to stand by the President and resist the temptation to lambaste him publicly.

Keeping the Democrats, or as many of them as possible, on Bill Clinton's side has become one of the White House's most urgent missions.

About 40 Democrats in Congress have been identified as high-risk. A commando team of presidential aides is telephoning them daily and exhorting them to keep their suspected disloyalty to themselves.

A split in Democratic sentiment is already evident, however. "What we have now is two Democratic parties," commented William Kristol, the editor of the *Weekly Standard* magazine, yesterday.

While large numbers of Democrats are either keeping their own counsel or are working with the White House to counter the Republican offensive, a significant handful may already be lost to the President.

"We're taking it day by day and working our butts off," conceded one long-time Clinton advisor, James Carville.

Privately, the White House believes that about one-third of the 40 lawmakers who have been treated to the daily phone calls have already concluded that the President's cause is a lost one.

The first sign of trouble came two weeks ago, when Senator Joseph Lieberman made his milestone speech on the Senate floor in which he lashed Mr Clinton for his "immoral" conduct with Monica Lewinsky. In a similar vein, the Democratic leader in the Senate, Tom Daschle, last week accused Mr Clinton of "legalistic hair-splitting".

Another weak link is Senator Diane Feinstein of California. She has very publicly denounced the President for his behaviour and last week revealed that she had spurned a request from Mr Clinton that she should speak with him.

The agonising in the ranks of the Democratic Party has everything to do with the imminence of mid-term congressional elections, which are now less than seven weeks away.

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

On the one hand, a splintering of the ranks could further imperil Democrat chances at the polls. On the other, candidates must wrestle with a desperate dilemma: will they fare better if they denounce their party leader or should they continue to display some loyalty towards him.

In their darkest moments, strategists for the party fear they are moving towards a disaster. There now seems little chance that the Democrats can pull off a net gain of 11 seats, which is what they need to regain a majority in the House of Representatives.

The Democrats may, in fact, now lose seats overall. Almost worse than that prospect is the spectre of the Republicans gaining enough seats in the Senate to gain a 60-40 majority, the largest any party has had since 1909.

"The toughest day for Clinton is going to be the day after the election," predicted Ed Goetz, a Republican pollster. "When Democratic leaders are asked what happened, there will only be one answer - Bill Clinton. That's when the anger will come out and the real carnalisation is going to occur."

Aside from partisan humiliation, the results of the election could clearly have a direct impact on whether the President will face impeachment. If the Democrats return to Capitol Hill next January in diminished, rather than augmented, numbers, it will become all the more difficult for them to resist Republican moves towards ousting Mr Clinton.

Until now, at least, the White House has been able to use the President's high approval rating among American voters to stem the flow of defections.

Even that may now be slipping away from them, however, as the latest polls suggest that disenchantment with Mr Clinton is starting to take hold across the country.

The Democrats also have one other vital weapon: the loyalty of Vice-President Al Gore. But as "Gore 1998" placards begin to pop up outside Clinton-Gore fund-raisers, a quite different and highly dangerous dynamic may be gaining momentum: a growing



Vice-president Al Gore simulates reading a newspaper headline at the University of Nevada, Reno

acceptance that Al Gore in the White House may be a better option for the party than a wounded and grievously bleeding Bill Clinton.

It hardly helps the White House that last Friday found Mr Gore looking entirely presidential as he paid a visit to New

Hampshire, the New England state that symbolises White House aspirations. And some headline writers seized at the weekend on one word uttered by Gore - that the President's cavortings with Lewinsky had indeed been "indefensible".

Overwhelmingly, however,

Mr Gore has continued to stand by his senior partner. "The way it will end up is he will finish his term with a distinguished record and will go down in history as a virtuoso performance," Mr Gore said of the president in New Hampshire. It sounds loyal enough. But

Mr Clinton's aides will scarcely welcome the imminent launch by the conservative-leaning Democratic Leadership Council of a new magazine. Named *Blueprint*, the publication will be heavily biased towards the prospects of a Gore presidency.

Republicans fear backlash over tapes

REPUBLICAN PARTY leaders struggled yesterday to justify releasing another avalanche of material from the Starr investigation into the President Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

The House Judiciary Committee's decision to make public this morning volumes of new evidence uncovered by Kenneth Starr, as well as the videotape of Mr Clinton's testimony on 17 August before the Grand Jury, has opened a hornets' nest of controversy.

With polls indicating public weariness with the scandal, there is a clear risk that the Republicans will be stung the worst.

The vote on Friday, won by Republicans in fiercely partisan fashion, has provided Clinton loyalists with a potentially golden opportunity to recover their fortunes. White House aides and other Democrats fanned out on the television airwaves yesterday to denounce the Republican party for acting unfairly and wantonly to humiliate further and enfeeble the President.

"I think people may question the judgment to put out that information," remarked White House Deputy Chief of Staff, John Podesta. "They may actually end up questioning the motivation, whether this was done for partisan purposes, and ultimately they may question the fairness of the process that's going on on Capitol Hill."

The timing may also be unfortunate for Republicans - today happens to be the Jewish New Year.

Meanwhile, latest polls yesterday indicated that 69 per cent of Americans have no appetite for the Clinton videotape.

It is too soon to know whether any significant voter backlash may surface to hurt the Republicans, who are counting on negative sentiment toward Mr Clinton to propel their chances at the congressional elections on 3 November.

Democrats will underscore the role of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who last week summoned Republican members of the Judiciary Committee and urged them to support the release of the new material.

Among those defending the vote yesterday was Representa-

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

tative Tom Delay of Texas, who has been unsparing in his anti-Clinton rhetoric. "There's no good time to release [the tape]. But the American people need to see the truth, however bad the truth looks. They need to face the reality of the seriousness of what faces us," he said.

The Republicans may suffer additional damage from the swirling sub-plot to the impeachment hearings con-



Tom Delay: 'Need for truth'

cerning allegations about the private lives of other politicians on Capitol Hill. Most notably there were the revelations last week of a 30-year-old extramarital affair entered into by Henry Hyde, the chairman of the Judicial Committee.

A moral war on Capitol Hill, in which the personal histories of almost any politician becomes fair game, could be highly dangerous for all sides. Mr Delay has asked the FBI to investigate his suspicions that the information about Mr Hyde was deliberately leaked by the White House and, specifically, by the Clinton aide, Sydney Bhumenthal.

However, without a convincing turn of the tide of public sentiment against Clinton, how wise will it be for the party to forge ahead with impeachment hearings against him? Orrin Hatch, the respected Senator from Utah, has hinted at his preference for a vote of censure against the President, instead of impeachment.

Moreover, with an eye on the presidential campaign in 2000, would the Republicans in fact be better off keeping a damaged Mr Clinton in office rather than replacing him with a potentially much more effective Al Gore?

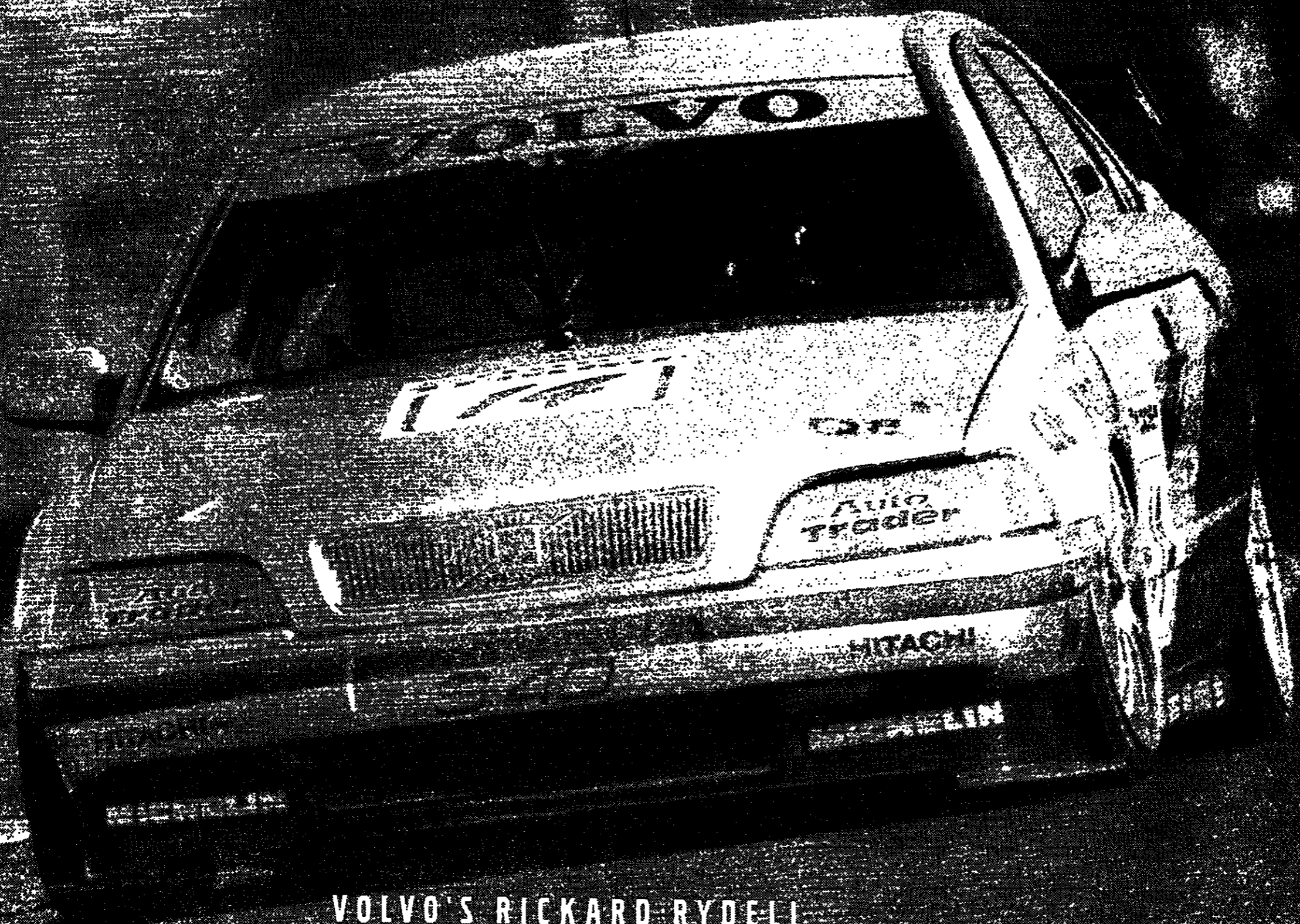
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Malaysian turmoil: Opposition leader's rally ends in clashes just a few miles from where the Queen is staying

Riots at arrest of former minister

THE QUEEN flew into the middle of a political crisis last night after the arrest of Malaysia's opposition leader and the largest and most violent demonstrations seen in the country for nearly 30 years.

Police carrying assault rifles were guarding the home of the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, close to the state guest house where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were staying on the first night of their state visit. A few miles away, armed police arrested the opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim, after a mass rally at which he demanded the resignation of Dr Mahathir and accused him being a dictator.

A British official in Kuala Lumpur said that the royal visit would be unaffected by the disturbances, which follow a dramatic fortnight in Malaysia. What began as a battle between the country's two most powerful leaders has grown into a crisis that has threatened to overshadow both the Queen's visit and the Commonwealth Games, which she brings to a close tomorrow.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced last night that he would continue to accompany the Queen rather than fly to New York, as originally scheduled.

It was a day of ironic symbolism, centring on Kuala Lumpur's Freedom Square, where the Union Jack was lowered for the last time in 1957 when Malaysia gained its independence from British rule. On one side, the Queen began her four-day visit with a service in the whitewashed Anglican cathedral. A few hundred yards across the square, a crowd of

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Kuala Lumpur

some 40,000 gathered in front of the National Mosque in the biggest display of unrest since race riots in 1969.

The man they came to see was Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister, who was sacked two weeks ago by Dr Mahathir for alleged sodomy, adultery and treason. On Saturday, in what many in Kuala Lumpur regarded as a show trial, Mr Anwar's adopted brother and a 50-year-old Muslim scholar pleaded guilty to being sodomised by Mr Anwar. But yesterday the depths of his support were obvious.

Police closed off Freedom Square, so the crowds converged on the adjacent National Mosque. "Malaysian citizens have waited long enough," Mr Anwar shouted through a megaphone. "We have given Dr Mahathir enough time. Mahathir should resign!"

"Mahathir resign now!" belated the crowd, as they split through the streets to the square, blocking an elevated motorway and booing the few police cars that passed by. A group of 5,000 youths marched on Dr Mahathir's official residence but was dispersed with tear gas, water cannon and baton charges by the police.

At about the same time, police burst into Mr Anwar's home and arrested him on charges of sexual indecency, with one of his chief aides and his wife whom he had appointed to lead the reform movement in the event of his arrest. His lawyers expected him to appear in court this morning.



Demonstrators are showered with water yesterday after a rally for the ousted Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, in Kuala Lumpur

AP

From protege to public enemy number one

LAST MONTH, Anwar Ibrahim received his invitation to what should have been the biggest event in Kuala Lumpur last night: a welcoming ceremony for the Queen at the start of her state visit to Malaysia.

Back then he was the second most powerful man in Malaysia, the friend, deputy and chosen heir of Mahathir Mohamad, the 72-year-old Prime Minister. His country was on the verge of a notable achievement as the first non-white country to host the Commonwealth Games.

It was only a few weeks ago, but today it seems another age and today Malaysia is a far more unpredictable, more dangerous place.

As Dr Mahathir was welcoming the Queen yesterday, his former friend was addressing 40,000 people demanding that the Prime

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
in Kuala Lumpur

Minister resign. A few yards away from the state guest house where the royal party is staying, police armed with automatic rifles fended off young protesters with tear gas and water cannon. By midnight Mr Anwar was in a police cell, facing charges ranging from unlawful assembly to adultery, sodomy and treason.

Several countries in South East Asia have been hit by unrest this year but until yesterday Malaysia seemed to be in a different category.

Since the collapse of the Asian currencies last year, Malaysia's economy has suffered, but not to the same extent as those of Indonesia, Thailand or South Korea.

In his 17 years as Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir has exer-



Anwar Ibrahim and his wife, Datin Seri, yesterday

cised stern control but he was democratically elected and seemed to be in a different category from regional dictators, such as Indonesia's former President Suharto.

The Malaysian people were prosperous, hopeful and not given to dramatic expressions of political discontent. Until yesterday.

"At no time in our history have the institutions of government been questioned publicly," Mr Anwar said last week. "But people have reached a stage when they have to decide whether they want the country to be led by corrupt and unethical leaders who sacrifice everything - principles, justice, fair play and equality - for their own purposes."

Last week, it was not clear whether Mr Anwar's struggle with Dr Mahathir was really about political principles or mere party rivalry. Dr Mahathir suddenly sacked his 51-year-old protégé on 2 September. The move was unexpected, although it did not come completely out of the blue, as the two men were known to disagree on economic policy.

What was more remarkable were the reasons the Prime Minister gave for the sacking.

Far from being a devout Muslim, Mr Anwar was an adulterer, a promiscuous bisexual and, it was hinted, a CIA agent, Dr Mahathir announced.

Mr Anwar denounced the charges as a conspiracy orchestrated by a corrupt Prime Minister. "Mahathir is scared by the possibility that I will challenge him," he told *The Independent* a few hours before his arrest. "He thought I would protect his personal, family interests but because of my firm views on corruption ... they cannot take that risk anymore."

No charges were brought to court until last weekend, when Mr Anwar's adopted brother and another Muslim friend appeared in court and pleaded guilty to having allowed themselves to be sodomised by Mr Anwar. The trial was an almost comically rushed and dodgy-looking affair.

Last night, despite police warnings that the gathering was illegal, Mr Anwar filled Kuala Lumpur's Independence Square with his supporters, chanting the single word "reform" and demanding Dr Mahathir's resignation.

What happens next is unclear. With Mr Anwar in jail the reform movement has no obvious leader. It may wither away, as Malaysians opt for the familiar authoritarianism of "Dr M", rather than risk the uncertainty of more protests.

But it is nearly 30 years since Kuala Lumpur has seen anything like yesterday's events; the government has underestimated Mr Anwar's personal support and the excitement he has triggered. A crack has opened in Dr Mahathir's regime and even if it is patched over this time around Malaysia will not be the same.

French parliament prepares for battle over gay 'marriages'

ONE OF the most virulent parliamentary battles in recent French history will begin tomorrow when the government presents plans to allow homosexual and heterosexual couples to enter legal agreements, short of marriage.

The proposed "civil solidarity pact", or PACS, has already been condemned by the Catholic Church in France as an assault on the family and by some centre-right politicians as a homosexuals' charter.

Something similar already exists in Scandinavian countries and the Netherlands. But France is the first Latin, and mainly Catholic, country to consider such an agreement.

It would give unmarried couples broadly equivalent inheritance, tax, health, and tenants' rights to married couples. It would not give them the right to adopt children.

Originally, it was conceived as a partial answer to demands by homosexual organisations for a form of legally recognised marriage ceremony. To avoid

BY JOHN LICHFIELD
in Paris

homophobic attacks from the right, and from populists within its own ranks, the government broadened the idea to include heterosexuals.

This opened another front of attack, from the Catholic Church and family lobbies, who fear the PACS will confirm the trend against marriage among young French people. The Church hierarchy and most of the right says the PACS would give people all the advantages of marriage without the constraints. It would leave the children of PACS couples in a social and legal no-man's land.

Meanwhile, homophobic attacks on the proposed law continue. "The PACS was invented by a gay deputy to appease the homosexual lobby," said Guy Teyssier, one of the leaders of the Democratic Liberal party.

Supporters of the PACS, including a sprinkling of politicians on the right, say such attacks ignore the social reali-



Gigou: Wants new law

ties of late 20th-century France. There are already two million heterosexual couples living together without being married. Four in 10 French children are born outside wedlock. One marriage in two in the greater Paris area ends in divorce.

Supporters say the PACS will give children of unmarried parents more certainty than they have now. It may prove a stepping stone to the altar, encouraging a form of legal commitment which will lead reluctant couples to go further.

The draft law goes before the

Socialist group in the National Assembly tomorrow and is expected to reach the assembly proper early next month.

A PACS couple would be eligible for joint taxation benefits after three years. If one partner died, the other would receive generous allowances on death duty; they would have an automatic right to take over a lease in the other partner's name. The "dependant" half of such a couple would be able to enjoy the other's health benefits. A foreigner who became pacsed to a French person could claim the right to live in France.

Elisabeth Gigou, the justice minister, said the PACS was a way of allowing the law to catch up with reality; it would grant a legal and social status, which corresponded with the way that many people lived.

"For example, I was revolted by the situation of some homosexual couples. One person falls ill with AIDS and his family refuse to have anything to do with his partner. That is humanly unacceptable," she said.

IN BRIEF

Missile kills 16 in Kabul

A MISSILE killed 16 people when it hit a densely populated suburb of Kabul yesterday. The rocket was fired by the forces of Ahmed Shah Masood, the main opponent of the Taliban in Afghanistan, whose militia has made spectacular military gains in two months.

Hurricane closes on Antigua

HURRICANE GEORGES strengthened to an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm, with 150mph winds, as it bore down on Antigua in the eastern Caribbean yesterday. Rough surf signalled its arrival. Hurricane Andrew, at Category 4, devastated part of Florida in 1992.

Race row over mixed worship

THE ORANGE Free State branch of the Dutch Reformed Church, with 164,000 members, is considering secession from the national church in protest over mixed worship with blacks. The issue is to be discussed at a special synod next month.

US Poles erect Auschwitz crosses

POLISH CATHOLICS erected four more wooden crosses at Auschwitz, the former Nazi death camp, yesterday in spite of calls by church and government to desist. The 15ft-high crosses, set up by Poles from Chicago and New York, bring the total to about 200 of various sizes.

Defector discloses Iraq oil smuggling

AN AIDE to Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi President, has defected and revealed Iraq's oil smuggling arrangements with Iran to British and United States intelligence officials.

Samir Salih, *The Sunday Telegraph* reported, defected to Britain with his wife earlier this year after "masterminding" Saddam's sanctions-busting oil-smuggling network.

Mr Salih, 38, had been accused of spying and was arrested and tortured by Saddam's guards before escaping, the newspaper said. He is now reportedly in hiding in Belgium.

The paper said Mr Salih had given the intelligence services details of the layout of the presidential palace on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates.

He said that despite the hostility that led to war between Iran and Iraq from 1980 to 1988, Tehran agreed to help Iraq to avoid United Nations sanctions imposed after the Gulf war. He said the Iranians took a cut of the black-market oil profits while both countries used the proceeds to buy weapons.

Both sides worked through front companies and by 1996, when Mr Salih was arrested, the trade was earning about \$1m a day for each country.

The Iraqi profits were deposited in Amman, Jordan, and were used to finance Saddam's regime and to buy arms and military supplies. After Mr Salih's arrest, the companies were run by Saddam's sons Uday and Qusay, then shut down.

URGENT FLOODS APPEAL.

This year, monsoon rains have wrought havoc throughout much of Asia. Thousands of villages have been washed away in Nepal and India. 14 million have been left homeless in China.

Crops have been ruined. The risk of typhoid and cholera is growing daily. Millions are suffering.

The International Red Cross is already providing tarpaulins, food, clean drinking water and basic medical supplies, but it's not enough. Hundreds of thousands of families still urgently need your help.

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Trust in me, says Howard

BY ROBERT MILLIKEN
in Sydney

JOHN HOWARD, Australia's Prime Minister, launched his re-election campaign yesterday with a familiar call: "Trust me."

At a rally of party faithful in Sydney, Mr Howard, 59, appealed for a second term with a risky policy of tax reform, including an unpopular VAT-type consumption tax on almost everything, including food.

As the campaign enters its final fortnight, the Prime Minister has put his political future on the line with this policy.

Mr Howard led the conservative Liberal party with its coalition partner, the National party, to victory in 1996 with a 5.3 per cent swing that ended 13 years of Labor rule. The press talked of the "Howard Revolution," a new era of dry economic policies, and forecast he would lead Australia into the next millennium.

Only two and a half years into his first term, a gap has now opened between what Australians expected of him and



John Howard, Prime Minister, kisses his daughter Melanie after his 'Stronger Australia' speech Mark Baker

what they have realised. It has a lot to do with Mr Howard's lacklustre leadership; but just as much with his inability to convince ordinary Australians, alarmed by the pace of social and economic change, that he has anything different to offer.

In his campaign television debate on 13 September with Kim Beazley, the Labor opposition leader, Mr Howard described his vision of Australia thus: "I want an Australia

... where, if you start with nothing and work your heart out, and do it well, you can earn something and keep a fair share of it."

Simple and non-visionary. But not the reality of life in Howard's Australia, according to Arthur Pappas, a Greek immigrant who bought the Howard family's garage in Earlwood, Sydney, about 14 years ago and now runs it with his son. He thinks the Prime

Minister is still stuck mentally in Australia's "golden" years.

"As a small businessman I find it very difficult," Mr Pappas said. "In some strange, mysterious way we don't seem to make anything for ourselves. It all goes to the government, or insurance, or something else."

Mr Pappas is also uneasy about the latest influx of immigrants into Earlwood. "Lately we've been invaded, you could say, by Asians. I don't

want to be known as racist because anything you say these days can be counted against you. But we worked from the moment we got off the ship. They go straight from the airport on to social security."

Pauline Hanson, the right-wing populist, has caused a political storm with her attacks on Asian immigration, multiculturalism and welfare spending on Aborigines. Mr Howard himself told the *Australian Fi-*

nancial Review that one of the best things about his government was that it had lifted the "pall of political correctness" hanging over Australia. "People are less hidebound now about what they say."

If Mr Howard does lead the coalition to victory again on 3 October, it will be a tribute to his political doggedness. As Prime Minister, he has pushed through his core agenda of tax reform and privatisation. But he has failed to offer inspiring leadership on big social issues, such as native land title rights for Aborigines.

Mr Howard has always seemed more at home in an old Australia. He has promised a referendum next year on becoming a republic, but, if re-elected, he will not support it.

Opinion polls in the past fortnight have put the Labor opposition ahead, but it would be foolish to write off Mr Howard. Australia's economy is prosperous and stable, while those of most of its neighbours are in turmoil. Mr Howard is banking that this, more than anything, will get him a second term.

CITY LIFE DELHI

Blast of clean air lifts the urban smog

THE AIR can be truly foul in Delhi. With 2,300 tonnes of particles spewing out daily and getting trapped under an inversion layer that often veils the Moghul domes, Delhi ranks among the worst polluted cities on earth. Crescents of grime rim the fingerhills and the nostrils of even the most fastidious of Delhi's 10 million inhabitants after a jaunt around the capital these days.

Somewhat we persevere, even though the daytime temperature lingers like a low-grade fever fanned by a clammy breeze. Tempted as we are to breathe easier, and we'll probably pay through the nose.

By offering oxygen straight up, Deepak Singh, a canny businessman who imports medical equipment, is out to resuscitate the bar-room scene in Delhi. His voice is so high-pitched with excitement that you would swear he has had a few extra hits of helium when he touts the health benefits of pure oxygen.

"Next month we'll also offer lime or mango flavoured air," he promised, proffering a twin nasal tube like the one he has clipped over his moustache. "Go ahead. It recharges your tired brain." The first time costs 200 rupees (£3).

When I located the Life Care 0-2 Bar, next door to a shop hung with bright plastic rubbish bins, the ambience had been a letdown. I'd envisioned scuba tanks, low lights and maybe soft new-age music, but it was more like a clinic than a bar. Four imposing black swivel chairs were positioned on shaggy artificial turf in front of a mirror. Sitting there felt solemn, as if I were ready to play *Mastermind*.

Each chair faced a filter/compressor gadget the size of an outboard motor. There were no oxygen cylinders. We'd be breathing regular Delhi air, after it was de-Delhiified, with the oxygen content concentrated from 19 per cent to 93 per cent, and misted with mineral water.

Jaswant Singh, 23, takes a 30-minute session every other day. He is one of the regulars. "Formerly my head was heavy and I felt lethargic. After oxygen I feel fresh. I smoke about 20 cigarettes a day, and used to really react to the carbon. It is much better now," he told me. I nodded, terrified that he'd flick his lighter and blow us all up.

Oxygen was hissing softly through the tubes, mildly pleasant.

After only six weeks in business, the energetic Deepak Singh plans to franchise his Life Care 0-2 oxygen bars across the Indian capital, and to plant a tree for each person who signs up for a series of inhalations. This worries me a little, because even planting trees in Delhi can pervert to the pollution.

Great piles of leaves smoul-



A customer taking the air through nasal tubes

der away eternally, regardless of the heat, so pavement dwellers can keep mosquitoes at bay. But the smoke hangs in the sky alongside the exhaust from thousands of electric generators that kick in during the frequent power cuts. When nights grow cooler, slum fires fuelled with dried cow dung will further blacken the smog.

Breathing this cocktail of mega-city vapours cannot be healthy. No wonder over a third of Delhi's inhabitants suffer from chronic respiratory disease. Those who can afford it escape to a hill station scoured clean by Himalayan winds. Could oxygen bars make a difference for the rest?

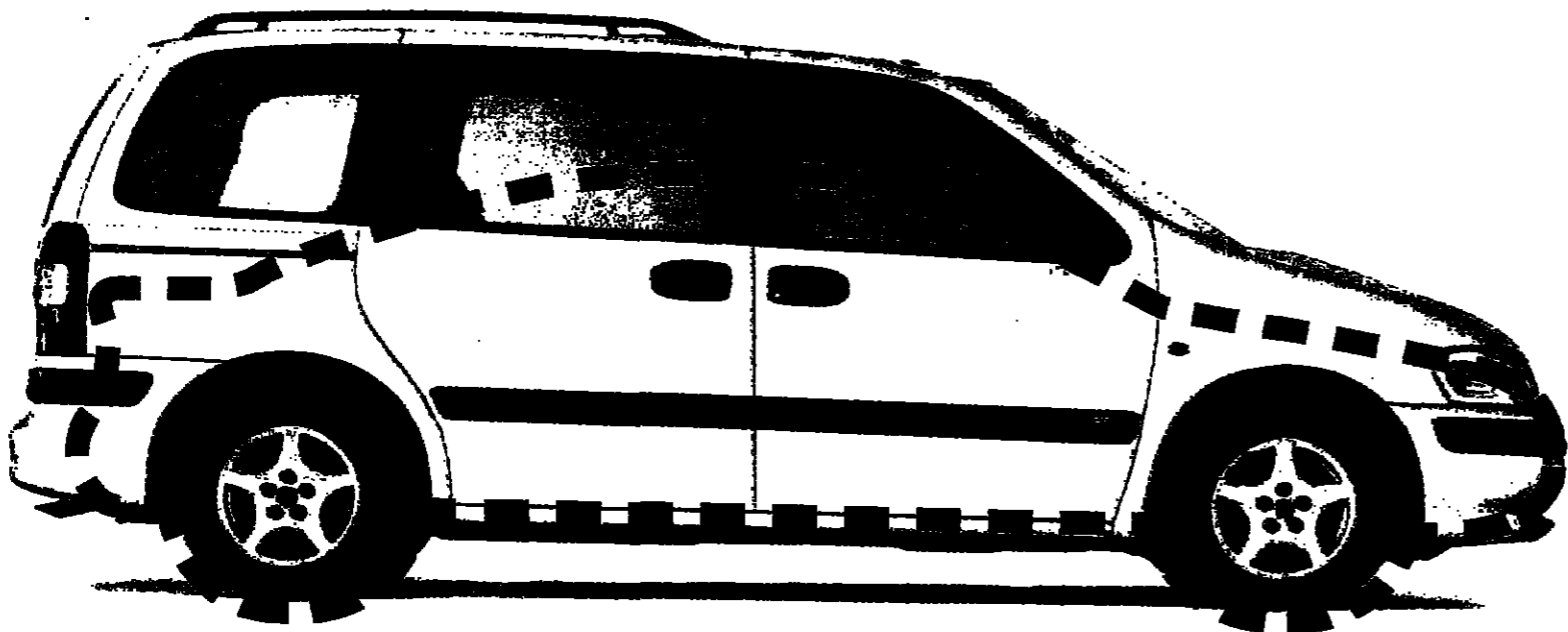
Dr Bharatinder Singh, my general practitioner, scoffed. "All it's got is smoot value. It's a drug and some enjoy it. But it's not a continual process, and it's like racing your engine on overly high octane. You'd be just as well off having a whisky and breathing in deeply."

Acrid fumes billow out of a bonfire near my window. Bahadur, the watchman, says thieves dug up the phone lines across the alley and are burning the plastic to get at the copper wire inside. The stench is overpowering, and we all cough. Maybe I'll book another session at the oxygen bar.

JAN MCGIRK

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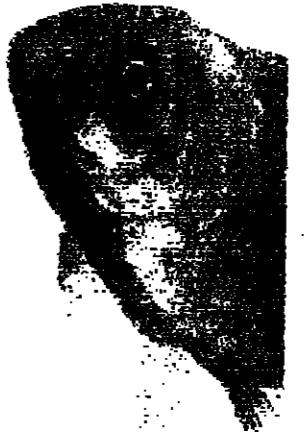
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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098
E-mail: IndyBusiness@Independent.co.uk

BUSINESS

Littlewoods seeks to cut 100 top managers

LITTLEWOODS, the retail and football pools empire, will today announce plans to cut 20 per cent of its head office management jobs in an attempt to streamline decision-making and revitalise the group's corporate culture.

Littlewoods is offering voluntary redundancy terms to 500 head-office managers and is hoping they will be accepted by at least 100. The Liverpool-based business has earmarked between £4m and £5m to cover the costs, although these are included in the £75m restructuring provisions announced earlier this year.

The payments equate to an

average of £50,000 per person, the equivalent of two years' salary, the company said.

Littlewoods is also planning to simplify its pay and benefits scheme. Currently there are 22 "zones", or employment levels, including nine for management. These will be reduced to a flatter structure with individually negotiated contracts. The company's fleet of 700 company cars will also be reduced. The move is part of plan to consolidate Littlewoods' three divisions into one site.

The restructuring is being led by Barry Gibson, the Littlewoods chief executive. He is trying to introduce a more modern, dynamic management approach based on performance rather than length of service.

The company has also announced plans to strengthen its board. Susan Murray, who ran the Smirnoff vodka brand for Grand Metropolitan before the merger with Guinness, is joining as marketing director. David Hallett has joined from Argos as information technology director. The search is continuing for a new finance director to replace Jim Michie, who has moved to become corporate development director.

At the trading level, high-street stores currently being tested under the Berkertex banner have performed no better than those under the existing Littlewoods name. Although a final decision will not be taken until after the Christmas peak sales period, it is considered unlikely that the Littlewoods name will be entirely jettisoned.

Littlewoods and Granada have announced further details of their new home shopping channel that will run on digital television. Called "Shop!", the channel will begin broadcasting from Albert Dock

Studios in November. Littlewoods is in talks with other retailers who may join the channel, although it is unlikely that any will sign before the launch of ONdigital, the Granada and Carlton joint venture, in November.

Littlewoods plans to run trial "new media centres" in two of its stores from November to coincide with the launch. The stores in High Wycombe and Birkenhead will feature separate areas with television sets and armchairs where customers can order from the Littlewoods Index Extra catalogue and place orders via the television channel.

Two US defence giants ponder Alvis bid

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ALVIS is set to be the subject of intense takeover speculation this week as predators decide whether to launch a bid for the armoured vehicles group.

United Defense Industries and General Dynamics, two US defence manufacturers, are reported to be preparing bids for Alvis. Meanwhile Vickers, the UK engineering firm, also hopes to join the action.

The interest follows last week's merger between Alvis and the Warrior armoured cars division of GKN, the engineering group. The deal heralds the beginning of the long-expected consolidation of the global armoured vehicle industry.

Bidders are interested in Alvis because, following the merger, it will have a strong position in the armoured vehicle market. By taking on GKN's Warrior and Piranha carriers it gains access to a £5bn programme to build battlefield taxis. Vickers was part of a rival consortium which missed out on the contract.

The awarding of the contract is a defining moment in the European armoured vehicle sector, with companies that failed to get any work on the contract forced to merge with other players or exit the industry.

Any takeover would have to gain the approval of GKN, which has taken a 29.9 per cent stake in Alvis as a result of the merger. The stake gives it the power to block any takeover it does not support.

However, the merger will not formally be completed until it is approved by Alvis shareholders in a few weeks' time. This gives other bidders an opportunity to put forward alternative proposals.

United Defense is a privately-owned US group which was created by the merger of two smaller companies four years ago. The group has close links with GKN, as both companies are members of a GEC-led consortium bidding for Project Tracer, the Anglo-American scheme to develop a new hi-tech reconnaissance vehicle.

General Dynamics is a huge group best known for its jet fighter aircraft. It also manufactures the Abrams tank.

News of the American interest is likely to increase the pressure on Vickers. Paul Byness, the new chief executive of Vickers, has identified defence as one of the group's core activities. However, even though Vickers has a strong position in tanks through its Challenger II vehicle, it lacks the critical mass to compete for projects in its own right.

A shortage of orders was behind Vickers' decision last week to close its Leeds factory with the loss of 1,100 jobs. However, it has a £200m cash pile it could use to make acquisitions.

Alvis makes the Scorpion and Stormer armoured vehicles. The company almost doubled in size last year with the £24m takeover of Hagglunds, the Swedish armoured vehicle manufacturer.

BRIEFING

Boardroom shake-up at Booker

BOOKER, the troubled food distribution group, is set to announce a boardroom shake-up within the next three weeks in an attempt to shore up its plunging share price and win back the confidence of major shareholders.

The move will include the departure of chairman Jonathan Taylor (pictured below) and the appointment of a new chief executive from outside the group. Booker has a shortlist of two candidates for the chief executive's post, but has yet to make a decision on the appointment.



The move comes amid suggestions that other bidders, including financial buyers, may be preparing to launch a bid for Booker. The company's shares last week fell to a new 12-month low of 107p as it called off merger talks with the convenience store group Budgens. Earlier Booker failed to agree a deal with the supermarket group Somerfield.

BA and American to extend link

BRITISH AIRWAYS and **American Airlines** are today expected to extend their global alliance to nine other airlines to create the world's largest aviation network. The venture, which will be called Link, will include the Hong-Kong based airline Cathay Pacific, giving the partnership strong coverage in the Far East.

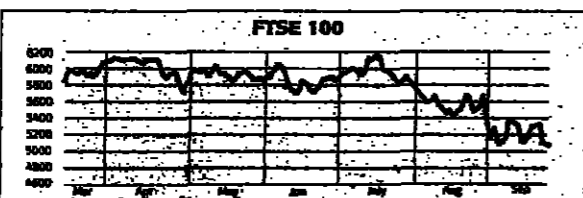
Other airlines joining the partnership will include Qantas of Australia, Canadian Airlines International, Iberia of Spain and other smaller carriers. The move will cement the BA-AA alliance, even though the deal is still awaiting formal regulatory approval.

'Worse bank deals' for blacks

BLACK AND ASIAN business customers get a worse deal from their banks than white business customers, according to a report published tomorrow. "Private Businesses and Their Banks", a report by the Forum of Private Business (FPB), will reveal that non-white business owners have smaller overdrafts, pay higher interest rates and find it harder to obtain finance than white owners of businesses.

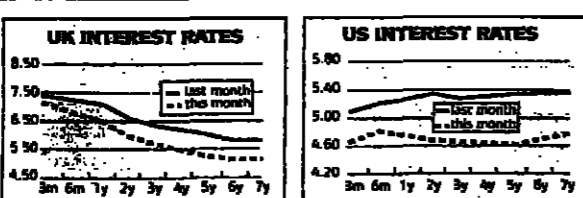
Stan Mendham, the FPB chief executive, said: "The initial evidence on ethnicity is disturbing, but does not reveal why non-white businesses appear to get a poorer deal from their banks. The banks should encourage more research so that we get a clear understanding of the forces at play in this important area."

STOCK MARKETS



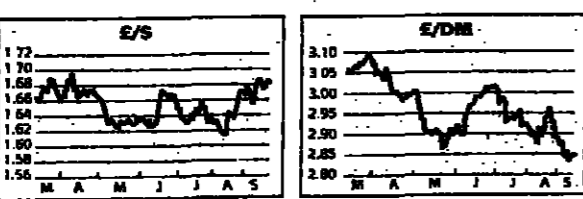
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3055.60	-63.00	-1.23	6183.7	4382.8	3.891
FTSE 250	4646.80	-50.50	-1.08	5970.9	4428.3	4.485
FTSE 350	2425.90	-29.50	-1.20	2869.1	2141.8	3.998
FTSE All Share	2354.83	-38.80	-1.21	2886.52	2106.59	4.002
FTSE SmallCap	2051.00	-37.00	-1.20	2793.8	2044.8	4.074
FTSE 100 Div	115.82	-10.80	-0.91	1317.1	1140.2	4.424
FTSE AIM	872.70	-15.70	-1.77	1146.9	862.8	1.472
FTSE EBLIC 100	842.88	...	...	...	...	...
Dow Jones	7895.66	100.16	1.29	9367.84	6971.32	1.89
Nikkei	13963.12	66.14	0.48	18439.76	13664.74	1.09
Hang Seng	7445.96	-132.52	-1.75	15242.65	6544.79	5.486
Dax	4588.58	-138.57	-2.93	6217.83	3487.24	3.493

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	12 month	10 year	30 year	10 year	30 year
UK	7.64	0.16	7.06	-0.44	5.02	-1.61	4.73
US	5.50	-0.22	5.28	-0.69	4.70	...	5.15
Japan	0.41	-0.17	0.46	-0.18	0.63	-1.35	1.33
Germany	3.48	0.18	3.57	-0.13	3.96	-1.57	4.84

CURRENCIES



Index	Friday	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	10 year	30 year
Dollar	1.6844	0.006	0.36	1.6110	...
D-Mark	2.8457	+0.055p	2.8693	...	...
Yen	223.19	+0.14	156.35	...	...
E index	109.00	+0.30	100.60	...	...

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Chg	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	10 year	30 year
Brent Oil (\$)	14.12	1.72	18.01	...	...
Gold (\$)	291.45	-2.30	320.65	...	...
Silver (\$)	5.00	-0.06	4.63	...	...

TOURIST RATES

Class	Wk's ch	Wk's ch (%)	10 year	30 year
Australia (\$)	2.7359	...	...	...
Austria (schillings)	19.30	...	...	...
Belgium (francs)	56.72	...	...	...
Canada (\$)	2.4913	...	...	...
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8100	...	...	...
Denmark (krone)	10.54	...	...	...
Finland (markka)	8.4601	...	...	...
France (francs)	9.2062	...	...	...
Germany (marks)	2.7339	...	...	...
Greece (drachma)	473.54	...	...	...
Hong Kong (\$)	12.56	...	...	...
Ireland (pounds)	1.0948	...	...	...
India (rupees)	65.66	...	...	...
Israel (shekels)	5.9623	...	...	...
Italy (lira)	2728	...	...	...
Japan (yen)	217.81	...	...	...
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1279	...	...	...
Malta (lira)	0.6137	...	...	...

One of Marks & Spencer's clothing suppliers is expected to close three factories, blaming weak high street sales

David Willis

More jobs go as recession looms

SOME 450 jobs are set to go at a Marks & Spencer supplier, with just one quarter of negative gross domestic product growth next year, rather than two. He added that although the economy might avoid recession, the effects of the economic slowdown would be sharply felt, with unemployment set to soar by 300,000 by the year 2000.

Staff at William Baird, clothing supplier to M&S, look set to become the next victims of the slowing economy. The company last week began consulting with unions about 450 job losses, and is expected to shut three factories - a lingerie factory in Gwent, a sweatshirt factory in Cheshire and a casual-wear factory in Caernarfon.

A spokesman for the company blamed the planned closures on weak high street sales, and stressed the decision was not related to any plans by M&S to shift more production overseas.

The expected job losses at William Baird follow a series of recent cuts at a wide range of UK companies. Last week alone, Shell, the oil giant, said 2,000 jobs could go in the UK. Vickers, the defence company, announced 1,100 job losses and British Steel closed a Rotherham mill.

The high pound has been blamed for at least some of the recent job losses in manufacturing, but a slowing domestic economy will make job losses in the service sector increasingly likely, according to economists.

Professor McWilliams forecasts that UK manufacturing output will contract by 2.3 per cent in 1999, while output in the hitherto buoyant service sector will stagnate. What is more, the sharp economic slowdown will "blow a hole" in the Chancellor's financial plans, he said. The CBR head is predicting a public sector net cash requirement (PSNCR) - the new name for the public sector borrowing requirement - of £24bn in 1999/4. The Chancellor's forecasts for

growth are far more optimistic than Professor McWilliams. As a result, the Treasury is looking for a balanced budget by the new millennium.

A separate study by one of the former Treasury "wise men" has found that the pound is still 25 per cent overvalued against the mark, despite recent falls.

Professor Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research estimates that the "fair value" of the pound - known by economists as purchasing power parity - is DM2.34. The pound closed on Friday at DM2.85. Professor Congdon also estimates sterling to be some 25 per cent overvalued against the dollar.

Dispute over annuity rates hits Equitable

EQUITABLE LIFE, the UK life insurer, is facing angry complaints and possible legal action over its approach to annuity guarantees designed to protect pension savers from disappointing retirement incomes.

A group of pension savers are pursuing complaints about Equitable through the FIA Ombudsman, the body that investigates individual complaints against life offices. Some may take the issue to the courts.

They are complaining about pension policies which included a guaranteed minimum annuity rate, which promised a minimum rate of income from their savings on maturity.

Annuity rates determine the level of income a saver will get from their fund on retirement. The annuity rate - and the income - depends on the yield on

government gilts, which fluctuate as markets rise and fall. By guaranteeing a minimum rate, life offices sought to reassure savers that their income would be protected.

But the policyholders say Equitable's policies are failing to do that, at a time when the markets are offering one of the worst annuity rates available.

Some Equitable policies, issued more than 10 years ago, offered to guarantee annuity incomes at more than 10 per cent of the fund, so £100,000 would pay out over £10,000 a year, compared with around £7,000 on the open market.

But Equitable has told savers they cannot get a guaranteed rate for their entire pension saving. If they want the guar-

anteed rate, they will forego part of their terminal bonus, a sizeable chunk of their fund.

"Equitable says it has always made this clear in its contract. Nigel Webb, spokesman for the society, said the guarantees were always a choice between a guarantee for part of the fund (consisting of premiums plus annual bonuses) or a market rate for all of it. But policyholders say they were never made properly aware of this.

The recent turmoil in financial markets has caused a flight of money from shares to gilts, forcing gilt prices up, causing yields to fall to an all-time low and annuity rates to plunge.

The annuity specialists, Annuity Bureau, says a typical saver retiring with £100,000 can now get just £7,040 a year compared to £13,280 in 1990.

Partners at BDO get 24% pay increase

PARTNERS at the accounting firm, BDO Stoy Hayward, enjoyed a 24 per cent rise in their average earnings in its last financial year as profits rose strongly at the firm, one of the largest in the UK outside the Big Five.

The accountants today report financial results which showed that the average earnings of its 284 partners rose to £130,000 in the year to 31 March. Fees increased by more than 14 per cent to £122m.

BDO attributed the profits rise to a clear focus on serving growing entrepreneurial businesses. The company also said that audit income had increased by 13.5 per cent to £65m despite intense competition and low pricing. The rise had been achieved in part because of the development of a

"value-added audit service delivering enhanced customer-oriented advice".

The rise of more than 31 per cent in tax consultancy fees, to £32.7m, was attributed to the combination of a buoyant market for company sales and demand for tax advice in the wake of the phasing out of Capital Gains Tax retirement relief.

Adrian Martin, managing partner, said he was pleased by the firm's progress in recording its 17th successive year of overall growth, but he said there was still room to do better. "The improvement in our profitability over the past three years has enabled us to make some significant investments for the long-term benefits of our clients and the firm," he added.

Mr Martin said that the coming year looked to be challenging, but he was optimistic about the firm's prospects of attracting clients away from the Big Five firms. He said that a number of growing businesses had approached BDO because the large international practices they were using were increasingly ill-suited to this type of work.

BDO, which launched its biggest-ever advertising campaign during the year, is the seventh-largest UK accountancy practice, with 2,000 staff operating from more than 30 offices.

The firm, a group of regional partnerships, is part of the BDO group, which with more than 16,000 partners and staff is the world's sixth-largest international accountancy network.

New electronic broker plugs in

A NEW computerised trading system is set to arrive on the London share trading scene. Posit matches buy and sell orders and offers participants complete anonymity.

Investment Technology, an American group, and Societe Generale, the French bank, are behind this latest share trading initiative, which has functioned with growing success in the US for 10 years; it traded 2.6 billion shares there in the first half of this year.

The two have formed a fifty-fifty joint venture called ITG Europe which its chief executive, Alasdair Haynes, describes as a new type of stockbroker; in effect it is an electronic execution-only broker.

It is aimed at institutional investors as well as stockbrokers. But private investors will not be allowed to use the system directly; they will have to go through their broker.

Posit (Portfolio System for Institutional Trading), due to be launched in November, accepts orders telephoned or faxed to its trading desk or pumped directly into its system through an electronic link.

Twice a day, at 11 am and 3 pm, Posit will compare all orders, matching the maximum possible. Trades will be priced at the mid stock market price ruling at 11 am and 3 pm. Any unmatched deals will be completed if the City's new broker can manage to do so outside the system. It will be possible to leave a deal, with price limits, in the Posit box.

Posit will offer a trading facility for most shares - the 125 blue chips on the order book through to tertiary stocks in the lower, often neglected, reaches of the market. It could possibly help to alleviate the difficulty of dealing in the shares of smaller companies.

Orders are held in the Posit system, so the identity of the buyer and seller and details of orders are kept secret. There are also, it would appear, distinct cost advantages. So has yet another rival to the Stock Exchange emerged? There must be a possibility that Posit will attract trade from the Stock Exchange's much criticised order book, where rogue trades occur with monotonous regularity, distorting prices and the Footsie calculation.

STOCK MARKET WEEK

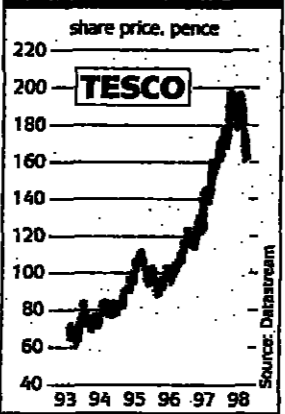


DEREK PAIN

It is estimated that only 30 per cent of available trading goes through the order book. This is a humiliating performance for such an expensive, highly hyped system, which is a year old next month.

But there is an argument that Posit complements order-driven trading and could actually benefit the Stock Exchange. The suggestion is the new system

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



will not attract much, if any, trade from the order book. But it will draw heavily on the 70 per cent of business the order book has failed to attract.

It is a crushing indictment that so much trading is still directed at the old market-makers who, freed from the obligation to trade in shares at signalled prices and sizes, are having a field day.

It seems that dealing in the dark, admittedly with people you may know and presumably trust, is preferable for many investors to encountering the perils of the order book.

Clearly Posit could be a compelling attraction for those who have decided to ignore the order book. And there is also its possible ap-

peal for trading in small companies. The Stock Exchange should be worried.

ITG Europe will be a Stock Exchange member, as is JP Jenkins which runs the fringe Olex share market.

It is setting up shop at a time when TradePoint, which did see itself as a rival, albeit a modest one, to the Stock Exchange, is going through a difficult period, and Easdaq, the European version of Nasdaq, has failed to make much impression.

ITG Europe, based at Dublin for tax reasons, plans to take Posit to Frankfurt next year and intends to cover the main European stock markets within two years.

Mr Haynes, who is 38, is a former derivatives trader. Before joining ITG Europe he was in charge of global derivative trading at HSBC.

He has made around 100 Posit presentations to City houses and has encountered, he says, enthusiasm for this latest share trading import from the US.

Diageo, the spirits behemoth leads this week's profits parade but is unlikely to engender much enthusiasm - indeed sobriety may be the order of the day. With the Asian crisis, a downturn in Latin America and the strong pound, profits will be down, say, £1.85bn against £1.93bn.

Tesco, as another of those monotonous price breaks out among the supermarket brigade, offers interim figures. So far Tesco has not joined in the new price friction; it will almost certainly do so. The market expects profits of around £370m, up from £350m.

PizzaExpress should turn in another sizzling display with year's profits around £23m against £16.2m, and Avis Europe should be set for £30m at the halfway mark against £22.3m.

Builders continue their profits season and Barratt Developments should be on line for year's profits of £92m against £70.1m. Kier, which acquired house-builder Bellwinch, is expected to offer final figures of £11.3m, up from £8.6m.

On the building materials front, Tarmac is likely to produce £46m against £38.6m.

Eurotunnel could check in with an interim trading profit - £170m against a £323m loss.

Former Ronson bosses light up another claim

WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



RONSON, the lighter company bought by Victor Kiam earlier this year, just can't seem to keep out of the legal news.

The company has just settled a claim for compensation for loss of office from its former chairman, Howard Hodgson, and his girlfriend, Christine Pickles.

Now it faces a multi-million pound claim for loss of earnings and damages from its former chief executive, Richard Furse, and his deputy, Lars Rydstrom.

Messrs Furse and Rydstrom left the company in July after Mr Kiam, the man who "liked Remington so much he bought the company", brought in some new directors. They claim they were constructively dismissed.

Mr Kiam became executive chairman after they left.

The duo say they left Ronson because interference from other board members made it impossible for them effectively to manage the business.

Ronson is currently in the middle of a £2m rescue rights issue. The two men are being represented by Reuben Berg, senior partner at Berg & Co, the Manchester solicitors. Mr Berg says there is clear evidence of "interference" from recently arrived board members, which made the positions of Mr Furse and Mr Rydstrom "completely untenable".

HISTORIC FOOTAGE of an emotional Princess Diana addressing a press conference in



Victor Kiam: bought Ronson, but ex-executives haven't gone quietly Mike Moore

1989 is among over a thousand hours of archive material now at the centre of a copyright row.

Independent Television News (ITN) is suing a film company over the copyright of news footage, including the Princess Diana film, the Orgreave mine dispute and the Zeebrugge ferry disaster, which ITN originally sold to the now defunct broadcasting company TV-am.

From 1983 to 1982 ITN had a contract to supply news footage to TV-am. TV-am stopped broadcasting and subsequently sold 1,100 hours of its own archive material to a third party, Movietonews.

Much of that included footage from ITN, the latter alleges. This summer Movietonews' mailshot a promotional video about the material to a number of potential customers - including ITN.

ITN's writ lists examples of the disputed footage, including "Princess of Wales: Turning Point Conference - 17.5.1982" as well as "Orgreave mine dispute - Man in red shirt hit by policeman - 18.6.1984".

ITN wants an injunction stopping Movietonews from

selling any material which originally emanated from ITN, as well as compensation.

TWO AMERICAN companies are suing Salomon Smith Barney in London over a total of \$2m (£1.2m) they entrusted to the investment bank in February to be invested for a period of three months, and which they now fear has disappeared - through no fault of Salomon's.

New World Industries of Nassau, Bahamas, demanded its \$1m back from Salomon on eight occasions between April and June, to no avail. Paradise America, incorporated in Nevada but sharing New World's registered office in Boca Raton, Florida, also demanded its own \$1m back twice in June, again without success, it alleges.

They claim Salomon "through no apparent fault of its own, is mixed up in the wrongful acts" of a trio of intermediaries. Back in February New World signed an agreement with Lewis A Rivlin and the Metropolitan Bishop of Limasol under which \$1m was deposited with Salomon. The money was invested through Hedley Finance Limited, a

company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands and having a branch office in Athens.

The two investors claim that Hedley used the funds for its own purposes, "acted dishonestly and perpetrated a fraud upon" them. They want Salomon to hand over all documents and information about the investment as well as any profits the bank might have made.

THE LIQUIDATORS of a north London car dealership are trying to reclaim a cheque for £31,798.42 made payable to the dealership but which instead found its way into a similarly named account belonging to someone else.

On 17 September 1992 the cheque, from Hilbert Insurance and payable to "UK Automotive Trading Limited", was paid into the account of "Autoconnection Limited" at a Barclays Bank branch in Edmonton.

The liquidator of UK Automotive Trading, Ninos Koumetsou of Alexander Lawson & Co, is claiming the money back from both Autoconnection and Barclays.

THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Today
Finals: PizzaExpress
Interims: Bemoose Corporation, Eurotunnel, Roxboro

Tuesday
Finals: Benchmark Group

Interims: Metrax Group, RJB Mining, Tarmac, Tesco

Wednesday
Finals: Barratt Developments, Kier Group, McBride
Interims: Avis Europe, Biocompatibles International;

Bowthorpe; Dawson International; Silenight; Sun Life & Provincial

Thursday
Economics: Final estimate of Q2 gross domestic product; Q2 balance of payments;

Confederation of British Industry monthly trends
Finals: Diageo
Interims: Chiroscience Group; Hewlett-Packard

Friday
Interims: Cox Insurance

IN BRIEF

Salomon gains three from DB

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY, the US investment bank, has poached three bankers from Deutsche Bank to boost its UK mergers and advisory division. Matthew Pensonby, Anthony Parsons and David Smith will start work at Salomon from next month. They will be joined by Steven Pobel from ING Barings and Pippa Mason from Warburg Dillon Read.

UK peacemaker

EUROPEAN Monetary Union is likely to cause serious disagreements between member states, although the inclusion of the UK in the first wave could help smooth tensions, says a leading US economist. In the latest IEA journal, Professor Robert Dunn writes that most European economies are more like the UK than Germany, and the Bank of England would be better placed than the Bundesbank to arrange coalitions.

Split on options

UK CHAIRMEN are split on the merits of paying non-executive directors in shares or share options. Research from recruitment consultant Egon Zehnder International shows that 48 per cent of plc chairmen are in favour of including shares or options in non-executive remuneration packages, and 47 per cent are against. Only 4 per cent of non-executives now receive some or all of pay in shares.

Drury Lane flats

TAYLOR WOODROW, the construction group, is planning a £21m apartment block in London's Covent Garden. The scheme, on Drury Lane, will provide 51 flats with prices ranging from £180,000 to over £1m. The first should be ready by the end of next year.

NatWest backing

NATWEST Equity Partners, the retail bank's venture capital arm, has backed the merger of two German information technology companies. The merger between Hauser Computer and Computer Partner creates a group expected to have sales of £55m within the next three years. NatWest is also providing funding which will allow the company to make acquisitions worth up to £30m.

New tunnel plan

EUROTUNNEL is this week expected to submit plans to build another rail tunnel linking France and the UK. Under its licence Eurotunnel has to submit the plans by 2000, but the company does not give the project a high priority.

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Tough choices, and not just about Viagra

WHAT IS the point of public spending? Viagra has grabbed our attention over the last week, as Frank Dobson struggles to work out whether the NHS should provide it, but there are many other difficult questions around. Should beta interferon be available from the NHS to all MS sufferers who might benefit from it? How much more should we need to spend to provide enough nurses? Where can we find the money to help poor pensioners? Although we had a Comprehensive Spending Review this year, and a Fundamental Spending Review in 1993/4 from the last government, there is still uncertainty about the answers to all these questions.

How did we get to where we are now, with government taking about 40 per cent of national income in tax, and then spending it? The chart shows the history of public spending since late in the last century. In the 19th century, defence spending was the principal component of government activity. But as the 20th century dawned, government began to take on new responsibilities in social security, education and health.



ANDREW DILNOT

We cannot have everything we want from the public sector and stable taxes.

The two world wars saw remarkable increases in spending, and although the scale of government fell back after each war, it remained well above its pre-war level, as expectations of the role and competence of government were enhanced by the activity of war.

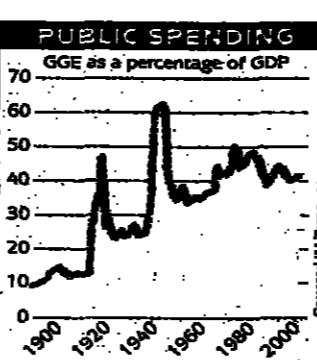
Welfare state-driven growth continued spectacularly after the Second World War, with all three major components of the welfare state, social security, health and education, reformed and extended. The expansion of provision meant more spending, as shown by the chart, and that spending meant correspondingly more taxation, both in real terms and as a share of national income. The tax rises seen for the first three-quarters of the century were so great that it is hard to imagine any politician claiming that taxes were not going up.

How was this possible? First, incomes were rising. National income was nearly four and a half times higher, after adjusting for inflation, in 1975 as in 1950, and by the end of the century will have increased sevenfold. As incomes rose it was possible both to increase the burden of taxation and leave households with increases in their disposable income. Second, many of the tax increases were relatively disguised, through higher national insurance contributions, or the erosion of the value of the allowances for inflation, for example.

And third, for much of the century there was a belief that governments were powerful and effective. The party came to an end in the UK in the 1970s. The economy stagnated, meaning that tax increases required reductions in disposable income, and confidence in governments declined. Denis Healey, the then Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, called a halt to higher public spending and taxation, which his Conservative and now Labour successors have continued with.

Although the economy has recovered from the 1970s, and has grown more rapidly during the 1980s and the 1990s, there seems little political desire to attempt a return to the years of government increasing its share of the economy. During the 1980s, many of our western European competitors continued to raise the tax burden, so that we now find ourselves one of the lowest taxed countries in Europe. But in the 1990s, the rest of Europe also seems to have decided the time has come to call a halt to growing government.

So what's the problem? Simply that we want to spend more on



many of the activities governments provide. As we grow richer, individually and as a society, there are some things we seem to want to allocate a larger share of our income to, and others which decline. Healthcare, education and incomes in retirement figure high on the list of things we want to allocate more to as we grow richer. This seems true across all countries, and at all periods, and is hardly surprising.

How did the Conservatives tackle this over their 18 years in government? They did increase spending on health, quite substantially, by

over 70 per cent in real terms, which meant a rise as a share of national income. The same was true of social security, while in education the real increase was not quite enough to increase spending as a share of national income. And yet the tax burden barely rose – the last government funded increased welfare state spending by cutting everything else.

That road is no longer really open, there simply is not much left to cut, as the ill-fated Comprehensive Spending Review discovered. The initial idea was to cut spending in some areas to fund higher spending in others. The cuts have not materialised, which doesn't seem too surprising after four Conservative governments seeking to do just the same.

So the problem is still there, and attracting more attention by the week. We will spend a growing share of national income on providing income in retirement, sickness and unemployment, on healthcare, on education. If public spending and taxation is not to rise, that implies a shift to private spending. In all areas of

the welfare state that is under way. Most dramatically, private pension provision is already very substantial, and continuing to grow. The new Government has introduced top-up fees for universities, to be added to substantial private spending on pre-school education and private schooling. Private spending on healthcare doubled as a share of total health spending under the last government, and Viagra is just one example of an area where private spending will rise if the public system does not provide.

We are a very low taxed nation by international standards, especially given the age structure of our population. That puts inevitable constraints on the level of public provision. We are making choices about who pays for what all the time, but as yet, the political debate has been vague. We could have more of what we want for everyone and higher taxes. We could have more of what we want for some people, paid for by giving less to others, and if we were radical that could even allow tax cuts. What we cannot have, however much we would like it, is every-

News analysis: Clumsy and tortuous local planning laws may cause a housing shortage, claim angry builders

Battle for the right to build

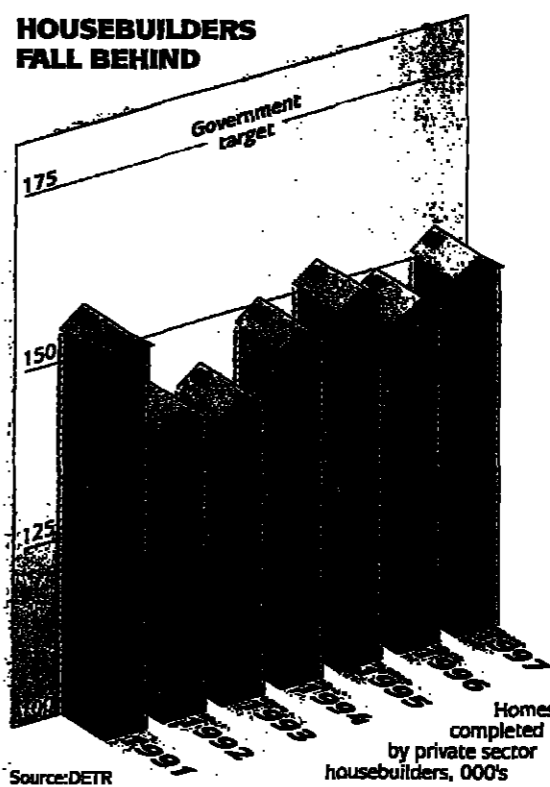
BRITAIN IS AT risk of suffering a housing shortage because the inefficiencies of the planning system are hindering land development, according to the country's major housebuilders. In the past two weeks most of the industry's big players have used their interim results announcements as an opportunity to launch a barrage of attacks on the planning system. Despite strong finances and optimistic statements about the future, the constant refrain from the bosses of Britain's biggest house builders has been: "We can't build nearly as many houses as we would like

By FRANCESCO GUERRIERA

because planners won't let us". Beazer, Bryant, Bovis Homes and Redrow – the companies have lashed out at a planning policy they describe as "bureaucratic", "tortuous", "useless" and "crazy". Dennis Webb, chief executive of Beazer, the UK's third-largest housebuilder, summed up the mood last week when he called for the scrapping of a planning system plagued by councils' "negative attitude to development". Andrew MacKenzie, the Bryant chief, was no less provocative: planning difficul-



The Government says most new homes should be on 'brownfield' sites, but many schemes are mired in delays



ties were "blighting the whole industry, causing delays in job starts and inhibiting growth in the number of selling outlets". The builders claim that the inability to develop their bulging landbanks cripples their profits and cash flow. They also warn that the delays will make it impossible to hit the Government's target of 4.4 million new houses by 2016. They are not alone in singling out planning as the key problem for UK housing policy. Environmental campaigners and planners concede that the planning process is not working properly and needs overhaul. However, they say the builders' protests are driven by self-interest and that construction companies will have to accept that they will never be allowed to develop as much as they want.

The housebuilders' major gripe is the so-called "plan-led" system. Under this, introduced in 1991, local authorities are required to draw up a plan of their area, specifying the use of each plot. In broad terms the local plans separate land between residential and other uses, such as industrial or retail.

The housing shortage problem arises with "brownfield sites" – derelict urban land which used to house factories or schools and therefore designated non-residential. They are the fulcrum of the Government's urban regeneration plans. In a White Paper in February John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said that about 60 per cent of all new houses should be built on brown land rather than virgin or "greenfield" sites. Housebuilders then concentrated their land purchases on brownfield sites, in the hope of capitalising on a new housing spree. Industry estimates suggest that more than half of the major players' landbank is now brown land.

To their dismay, they found that getting local authority permission to develop brownfield sites was difficult and time consuming. The main reason is that the areas are designated "non-residential" in local plans and, under the plan-led system, councils need to approve a change of use. Bureaucracy, understaffing and lack of resources mean that neither the builder nor the council know when the

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SPORT

No threat to Holyfield in laboured win

IT HAS long been established that boxing's ultimate warrior, Evander Holyfield, fights up or down to the level of his opposition, and so it was at the Centrum Arena in Atlanta, Georgia on Saturday evening when Holyfield made a home-town defence of his International Boxing Federation heavyweight title (his World Boxing Association belt was not on the line) against the unfancied mandatory contender, Vaughn Bean.

Holyfield retained his title by unanimous decision again - 116-111, 117-110 and 117-110 - but struggled at times in the 12-rounder despite scoring a somewhat untidy knock-down in the 10th, when he appeared to floor Bean with a right-hander as referee Brian Garry attempted to separate the fighters.

Bean had come into the contest in the middle rounds, when the experienced champion took his foot off the pedal, but there was never any real danger of an upset.

Some will wonder what might have happened had Holyfield been fighting his World Boxing Council counterpart, Lennox Lewis, and not Bean in front of close to 40,000 people. A fighter with the size and power advantages of Lewis would have been heavily favoured to knock out Holyfield in this form.

It might even have been different had Holyfield been facing his next opponent, the WBA mandatory contender, Henry Akinwande, whose challenge to Holyfield in June was cancelled at the 11th hour when Akinwande was found to be carrying the hepatitis B virus. The height and reach of the 6ft 7in Akinwande would surely have caused problems for this version of Holyfield. But Bean, while 14lbs the heavier man at 16st 7lb, was three inches shorter than the 6ft 2in champion who, as he proved against Mike Tyson, is never more comfortable than when punching down to an opponent.

"I didn't come in overconfident," said Holyfield. "I was fighting with a guy who was inspired. I hit him with good shots. He also hit me with good shots. He's a good fighter, better than people gave him credit for."

But Holyfield, more than anyone, will know that more was expected of him against one such as Bean.

World champion does no more than he has to and is already looking forward to meeting Lennox Lewis. By Glyn Leach

The 9-1 on odds for a Holyfield victory were the most prohibitive ever posted by the Las Vegas book-makers in his heavyweight career. At the age of 35, with 36 victories from 39 fights, he has never been held in higher regard. The two wins over Tyson and the revenge victory over Michael Moorer last year have given Holyfield a cloak of invincibility, where previously he was viewed as a fighter on the sly. Holyfield's recognition level has soared, particularly following his re-match with Tyson in July 1997. Holyfield lost part of his right ear that night in Las Vegas, Tyson was relieved of his boxing licence and \$3m in fines.

But the good guy lags behind Tyson in the popularity stakes; Tyson's application for his licence to be restored on Saturday in Las Vegas, and not Holyfield's title defence later that evening, was regarded as the heavyweight event of the weekend. And Oscar De La Hoya's welterweight title victory over Julio Cesar Chavez, on Friday night in Las Vegas, was viewed as a more significant fight than the showdown in Atlanta for the increasingly devalued "Richest Prize in Sport".

In his last appearance in his home state, seven years ago, Holyfield was knocked down for the first time in his career; by the erratic "Smokin' Bert Cooper, before ending the late substitute's spirited challenge in round seven. But this latest homecoming was not expected to produce such drama and it didn't, largely due to challenger Bean's conservative nature.

Bean, 24, had shown himself to be capable but unimaginative and unambitious in his previous 33 fights. His only previous defeat had come in his first world title challenge, again mandatory, to Moorer for the IBF championship in March 1997; Bean lost by a majority decision,

which means that one judge, at least, felt he had fought well enough to earn a draw (the two remaining officials scored for the southpaw Moorer).

"It's the same story," said Bean. "I hit him with good shots. I put pressure on him. I was backing him up."

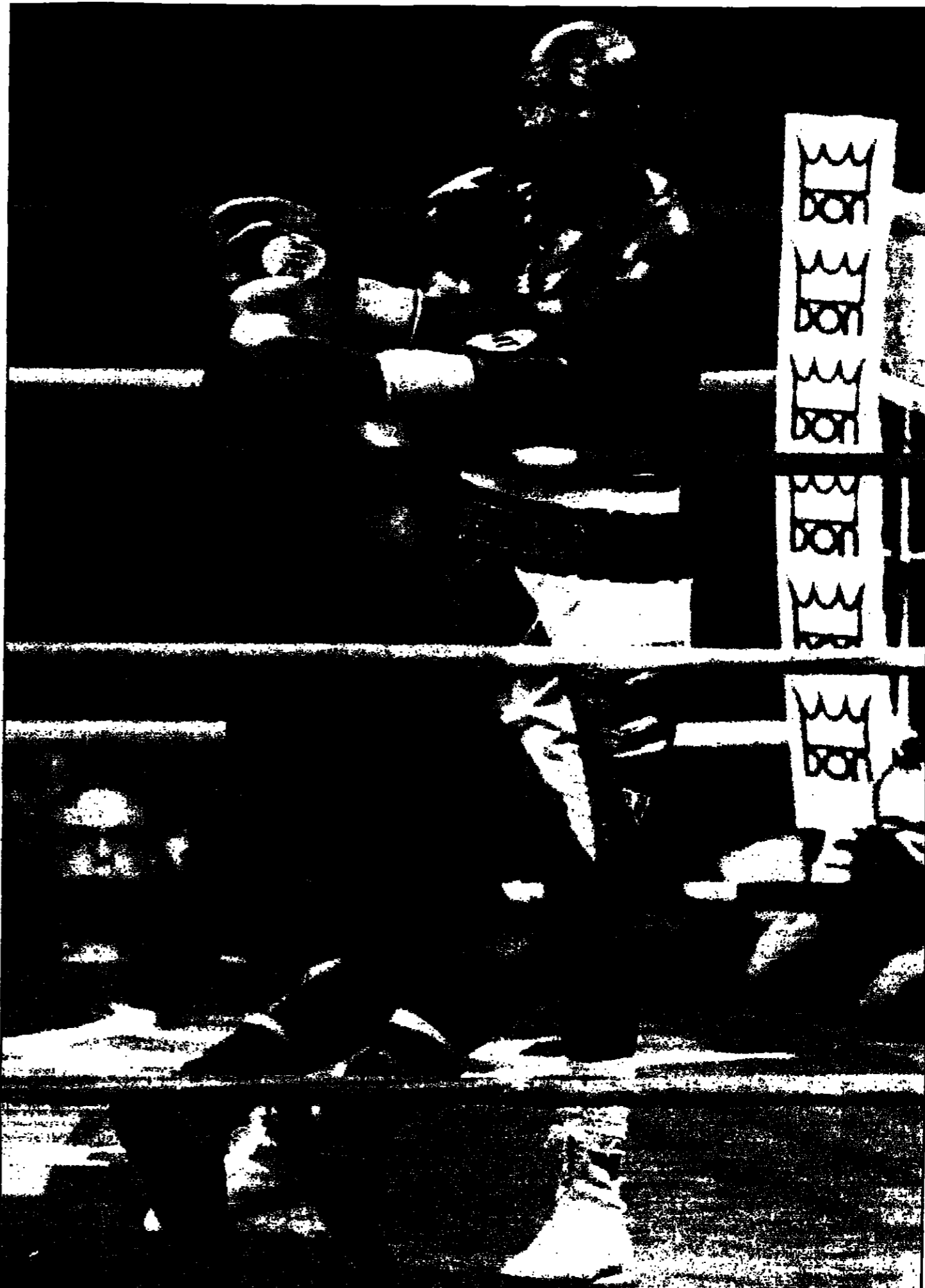
Bean also claimed that the referee should have stopped or penalised Holyfield for the knock-down punch. Garry was moving to Bean when Holyfield struck.

"The ref didn't do his job," Bean said. "I was a little off balance. He hit me right on my temple. He or the ref could have been a gentleman about it."

Much was made of Bean's level of opposition prior to this challenge, but winning heavyweights do not build their careers against winning heavyweights and Bean, as against Moorer, did not disgrace himself in any way. He gave it his best shot but was out of his depth against one of Holyfield's experience.

Afterwards, Holyfield repeated that it was his ambition to reunite the heavyweight championships and that a showdown with Lewis is more important to him than a third, more lucrative fight with Tyson, whose re-licensing has been put on hold until 3 October. "Why would I want to fight Tyson again?" Holyfield said. "He has nothing I want. If he had a belt for me to take from him, it would be different."

But Holyfield has turned down an offer of £17.5m from Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, for a unification fight and one wonders exactly what it will take to bring the man who has earned in excess of \$200m (£125m) from boxing to the table. A poor performance from Lewis against his own mandatory contender, the Croatian Zeljko Mavrovic, in Connecticut next weekend might do the trick.



Evander Holyfield rocks challenger Vaughn Bean in the third round of Saturday's heavyweight world title fight in Atlanta. Reuters/AP

'I feel like I'm Norman Bates up here' - Tyson

EVANDER HOLYFIELD and Don King have offered support for Mike Tyson, whose attempt to have his licence reinstated remains in doubt.

Tyson appeared before the Nevada State Athletic Commission in Las Vegas on Saturday, but after more than six hours of testimony, given mainly by a parade of attorneys and physicians representing the famed fighter, the five-man panel decided to delay their verdict until 3 October, pending a psychiatric evaluation of the disgraced boxer.

Tyson himself, who ended a previous licence application hearing in New Jersey in July with an angry outburst lightened up proceedings. "For some reason I feel like I'm Norman Bates up here with all the doctors and everything," he said as the commissioners asked questions about his mental health. "Trust me, I am sorry."

Holyfield the man whose ear Tyson bit off in a title fight last July, and King, the promoter Tyson claims robbed him of millions of dol-

lars, said the former world heavyweight champion should be given another chance.

"To take away the thing that he does best and strip him of that, how can he rehabilitate?" Holyfield said. "He should get the opportunity to use that to rehabilitate his whole life." As to whether or not he would fight Tyson again, Holyfield said: "I don't count out anything. As long as I'm fighting there's a chance."

Holyfield, a devout Christian with a forgiving attitude, would stand to make £15m or more from a third fight against Tyson. And no one would love to promote such a spectacle more than King, who is being sued by Tyson on charges he swindled the former champion out of prize money with unfair contracts that overpaid King for services.

"We have not taken a dime from Mike Tyson," King said. "It was more than a fair deal. I get what I deserve. I probably deserved more. I got 30 per cent. He got 70 per cent." King brought elements of race into



Mike Tyson shows the strain as he faces the Nevada Athletic Commission. Reuters/AP

his argument, a familiar gambit. Tyson's new advisors and lawyers are white, unlike Tyson, King or Tyson's lawsuit-targeted former managers, John Horne and Rory Holloway.

"It's a shame the black commu-

nity is being divided," King said. "He's being misled. They are blowing smoke in his face."

Nevertheless, King ended his diatribe with conciliatory words, saying "I wish Mike Tyson well."

Tyson now faces a two-week wait to find out if he can climb back in the ring. Asked if he felt he had been treated unfairly, he replied: "Absolutely yes. I continue to be treated unfairly."

The commissioners were clearly angry about Tyson's aborted effort to get a licence in New Jersey, but he blamed the attempt on one of his advisors.

"My life is on trial here, so to speak. Don't judge me because of some technicality problem you have with some of these guys," he said, gesturing at the array of lawyers and advisors seated around him.

Tyson said his banishment from boxing had changed him. "I acknowledge that I believed I was bigger than the sport," he said. "By this punishment, I was brought down to earth. Never mind making the same mistake again, I'll never be the same man again."

He had listened and contributed to the testimony about his mental health, finances and business dealings in boxing.

The commission was dissatisfied with the report provided by the psychiatrist Norton Roitman as part of Tyson's application team.

They suggested the compromise by which the commission will give Tyson a choice of three mental health facilities from which to choose one for an independent evaluation.

As his lawyer, Dale Kinsella, fretted over Tyson's right to doctor-patient confidentiality, the fighter intervened and said he would give the commission any information it wanted.

"Nothing in my life is private," Tyson said.

The two-week delay gives Tyson and his team little time to meet the panel's requirements. However, it buys the commission a little extra time to follow developments in the case in Maryland in which two men have accused Tyson of assault in the wake of a minor traffic accident.

Tyson has denied the charges and Kinsella told the commissioners that no criminal charges had been filed and he expected the case to be wrapped up within a month.

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
 - 2 Football Fans Guide, Janet Williams (Collins Willow, paperback, £9.99).
 - 3 Rothmans Rugby Union Yearbook 1998-1999, Mick Cleary and John Griffiths, (Headline, paperback, £17.99).
 - 4 The Official NFL 1998 Record and Fact Book (Workman, paperback, £17.99).
 - 5 Inside the All Blacks, Robin McConnell, (Harper Collins (NZ), hardback, £17.99).
 - 6 The Paddy and the Prince - The Making of Naseem Hamed, Nick Pitt (Yellow Jersey, hardback, £16.00).
 - 7 Anything But...An Autobiography, Richie Benaud (Hodder & Stoughton, hardback, £17.99).
 - 8 The Sporting News Hockey Guide 1998-99 (TSN, paperback, £18.95).
 - 9 Bobby Robson: My Autobiography - An Englishman Abroad, (Macmillan, hardback, £16.99).
 - 10 Corner Flags and Corner Shops, Jas Bains and Sanjeev Johal (Gollancz, paperback, £9.99).
- Compiled by Sportspages Bookshops, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London W1 (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 632 8530), and www.sportspages.co.uk

A fitting tribute to the genius of Laker

Jim Laker (Andre Deutsch, £17.99)
by Alan Hill

BOOK OF THE WEEK

MUTTHAR MURALITHARAN'S 18 for 220 at The Oval was the fifth best bowling analysis in Test history, so a biography of the man who returned the best, 19 for 90 with England at Old Trafford in 1956, is well-timed.

Jim Laker was a tall, strong, usually affable Yorkshireman whose off-spinning for Surrey played a principal part in bringing seven successive championships to The Oval in the Fifties. In much of that decade he would have been regarded as the world's best of his type.

Alan Hill has biographies of Hedley Verity and Johnny Wardle in his CV, so he knows which bells to ring. He is especially good on Laker's background, helped greatly by Lily Laker and the family, and has turned up a few surprises.

Laker was a 19-year-old Barclays Bank clerk when he volunteered for the Army in 1940, a batsman who bowled for his Bradford League club, Saltaire. In the Middle East he discovered he could turn the ball prodigiously on matting. Tales of

proress reached Yorkshire, who knew him as a trialist, but after the war they had no room for another off-spinner.

His able and fiercely possessive mother died at the same time. Laker went to live in London with an Army friend and began playing for Catford, whose president was a Surrey stalwart.

He found The Oval then class-conscious, but settled into an emerging and hugely talented young team. He had played for England for two years, but first made an impact on the national consciousness when he returned to Bradford in 1960 to achieve a sensational bowling return in a Test

trial, attracting the media by taking figures of 8 for 2. "Have you done this before?" a non-cricketing reporter asked. "Not very often," was Jim's laconic reply.

After his even more sensational feat of 19 Australian wickets in 1956, he was driving home at a time when there were no motorways and little television.

He stopped for a break in a Midlands pub. While sipping a beer and munching a sandwich he heard everyone talking of his bowling. No one recognised him.

His spinning fingers were often left raw and bleeding, and in the fiercely competitive ambience of the Surrey dressing room he clashed

with an austere and ambitious captain, Peter May. He also clashed with the establishment over a book (there was nothing salacious about it, concentrating mostly on sensible comment). He then joined Essex briefly and, for a second time, rejected an invitation to return to Yorkshire.

He finished his career as a highly respected television commentator, successfully using his voice, as well as a depth of experience, to communicate his great love for the game and its players. His knowledge, experience and dry wit made his company a delight. This, surely, is the best of Alan Hill's biographies.

Derek Hodgson

Biaggi's hollow victory

IT BEGAN in an atmosphere of acrimony and ended in uproar, the implications of which could long reverberate through the Blue Ribband class. Michael Doohan secured victory at yesterday's 500cc Catalan Grand Prix here but leading him over the finishing line was Max Biaggi. The upstart Italian had ignored a black flag, however, issued after both he and the Brazilian Alex Barros had failed to respond to a stop-and-go penalty. Biaggi's Honda team immediately lodged an appeal against his disqualification.

The shattering blow to Biaggi's championship ambitions on lap 16 was for overtaking on a yellow flag following a three-machine pile-up on the race's first corner. "I'm obviously very upset about what happened," the distressed Italian said. "I felt very good before the race; I was leading and I thought I could win. I feel like I deserve the 25 points."

In finishing the race, Biaggi was making a perverse point, but the "victory" was emphatically a Pyrrhic one. The 25 points went to Doohan, while the Italian was unclassified and earned nothing but further scorn. Doohan now leads Biaggi in the title standings by 21 points with three rounds remaining. Biaggi's hopes of a first 500cc title in his debut season in the class now appear forlorn.

The pre-race exchanges between Doohan and Biaggi were as vicious as the unrelenting Catalan sun, which lifted temperatures into the 90s. Having rubbed his nose in the Imola dirt in front of the Italian's home crowd in Round 11, Doohan showed that four titles have not eased a cantankerous

MOTORCYCLING
BY ANDREW MARTIN
in Barcelona

nature by responding to some inflammatory comments from Biaggi with a liberal application of verbal rocket fuel. "He carries on like a baby. I've had enough of his excuses," the 33-year-old fumed.

Biaggi then waded in with his own terse opinions, that Doohan was too old to handle the pre-race pressure. With all the petulant sparring going on, the attention was diverted away from the local favourite and only other championship contender, Alex Criville.

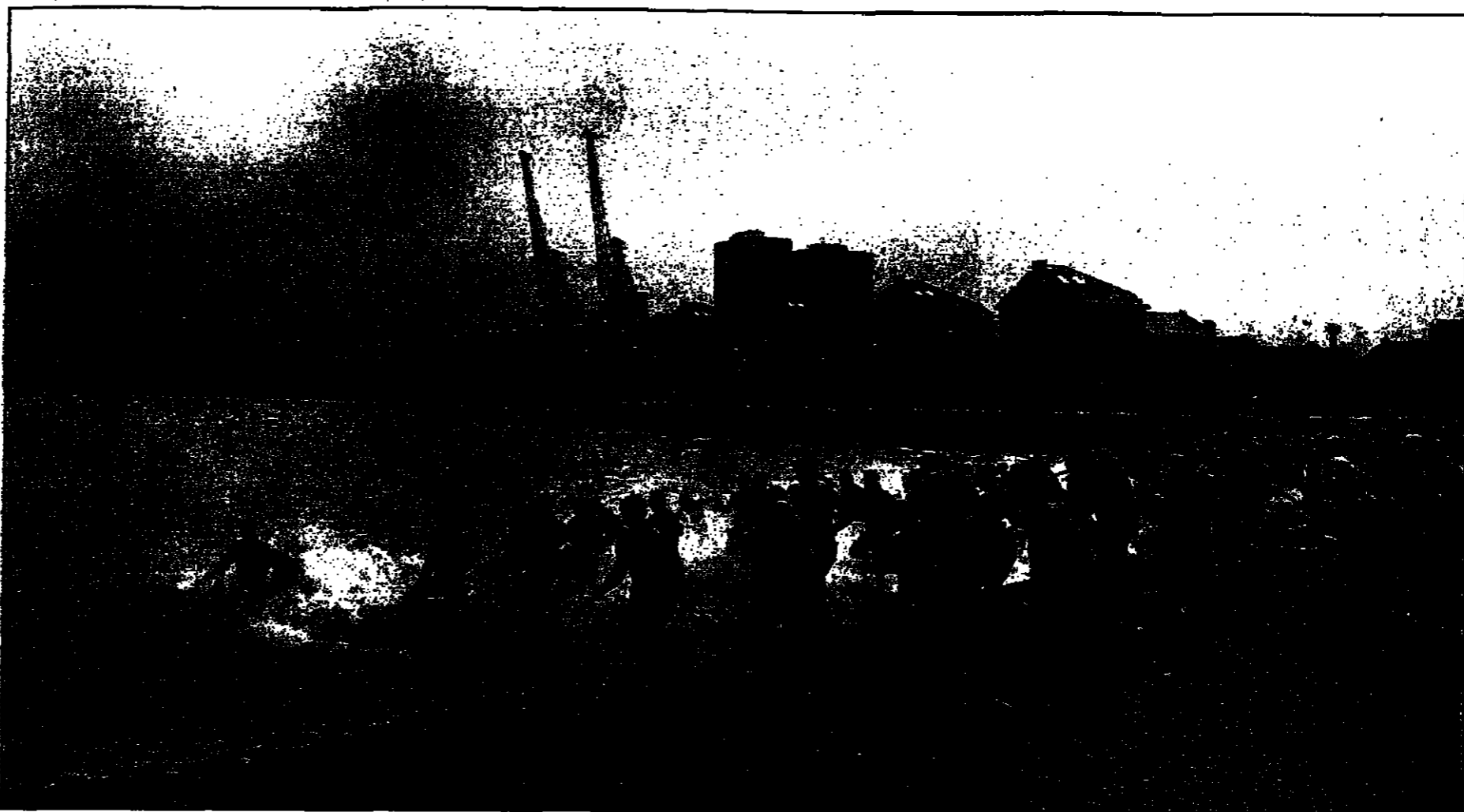
Second in the previous round at Imola the quiet, undemonstrative Catalan produced a blistering qualifying time to steel both pole position and the warring Biaggi and Doohan's thunder. It also considerably boosted the gate receipts, the passionate locals responding to their hero's challenge with jeers and whistles each time Doohan steamed past the galleries, as a crowd of 82,000 packed the circuit for its highest-ever attendance.

Criville's race was also to end in disappointment. On the first bend of the long starting straight he was scythed down by the tumbling Suzuki of Katsuzaki Fujiwara, which also put Jean-Michel Bayle out of the race. Out came the yellow flag and the failure of Barros and Biaggi to heed as they tussled for first position, ultimately leading to their disqualification.

Barros eventually returned to the pits but Biaggi remained at the head of the field as Doohan trailed in his wake to a bizarre victory.

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London's triathletes race to have a dripping time in the dock



The waters of the Victoria Dock in east London look far from appealing as hardy competitors in yesterday's London Triathlon make a sprint start to the first discipline - a 1500 metre swim. Next came a 40km cycle race followed by a 10km run
Robert Hallam

Rydel steers safe path

RICKARD RYDELL recovered from a jittery performance in last weekend's penultimate Auto Trader British Touring Car Championship meeting to take the title with a second place in round 25 of the 26-round series at Silverstone.

Third place in round 26, won by his title rival Anthony Reid, completed a great day for Volvo's Swedish driver.

Rydel was under pressure this weekend and drove a controlled and conservative sprint race, while his rivals seemed to have dispensed with all restraint. "It was like a demolition derby," said Derek Warwick. "I've never seen so much bumping and bashing." While Rydel steered clear of the panel bashing, his only remaining title rival, Nissan's Reid was less fortunate. A

MOTOR RACING
BY NICK PHILLIPS

Gerse series of engagements with eventual race winner James Thompson's Honda left Reid down the field and nursing a damaged car.

Thompson drove a superb race to win, with Rydel second, Yvan Muller (Audi) third, Jason Plato (Renault) fourth and Reid fifth. Nissan's David Leslie, Peter Kox in the other Honda, and last year's champion Alain Menu all featured near the sharp end before getting involved in smoky stunts.

Kox had to retire, Leslie dropped to the back and Menu was pushed down the field to have a run-in with fellow former champion John Cleland's Vauxhall.

The rivalry continued verbally, with Cleland offering: "His trouble is that he thinks he can walk on water, but he can't. And Menu: 'The truth is that he's past it. He should go home and stay there.'"

Nigel Mansell's season in the series ended quietly, the 1992 Formula One world champion unable to even match his teammate Will Hoy in the uncompetitive Ford Mondeo and finished 14th in the sprint, hampered by suspension damage sustained in an early skirmish.

In the feature race he almost made it into the points in 10th place, until he was tapped into a spin by fellow former grand prix driver Warwick. He hoped for better results in the future, saying: "Ford has a new strategy to put all its resources into next year."

Blackburn value to hold Chelsea

BY IAN DAVIES

Blackburn and Chelsea can fight out a draw (maybe 1-1) in their Premiership match at Ewood Park this evening. Blackburn, 18th in the table after a poor start to the campaign, were arguably unlucky to go down 1-0 at home to the useful French team Lyons in the first leg of their Uefa Cup tie last Tuesday. They are fancied to contain the Super Cup winners who have also made a slow start to the domestic season. Blackburn's Kevin Davies may be the best bet to score the first goal.

There could be some value for punters in a quarter of the second round, second leg Worthington Cup ties tomorrow and Wednesday in which the away sides enter the game with a 3-0 cushion from the first

leg and therefore have little incentive to perform to their best.

The underdogs Chester look good value to either beat or draw with Sunderland, 3-0 first-leg winners in the second leg of their tie at the Deva stadium tomorrow night. Sunderland, having coasted to victory in the first leg, can afford to lose 2-0 and therefore look very dodgy odds-on favourites. The same remark applies to Leicester, who visit Chesterfield. The Spireites must represent decent value to beat - or at least draw with - Leicester.

On Wednesday, it should be one-way traffic when Crystal Palace try to erase a 3-0 deficit against Bury. Bury will surely be looking simply to survive at

Selhurst Park. Out of form Palace, however, are no great value at the odds on offer and a draw might well be the best option. Finally, Reading, using the same criteria, must be a fair bet to beat or draw with their guests, Barnsley.

	C	H	L	S	T
Blackburn	2.4	1.3	7.4	1.3	9.4
Bury	8.4	1.1	8.4	1.1	1.1
Chelsea	5.4	1.1	5.4	1.1	5.4
Chester	2.2	1.2	4.1	5.1	9.2
Derby	1.2	1.2	1.2	5.2	1.3
Leeds	6.7	1.2	4.7	8.1	8.1
Leicester	10.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	7.2
Leeds	5.4	9.4	1.2	1.2	1.2
Leeds	8.1	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Leeds	10.1	10.1	4.5	5.5	1.2
Leeds	1.2	5.4	9.4	1.2	2.1
Leeds	1.2	5.2	3.1	1.1	2.1
Leeds	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Leeds	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1
Leeds	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1

C: Carl, H: William Hill, L: Ladbrokes, S: Sporting, T: Tote

HEREFORD

HYPERION

2.10 Baba Au Rhum 2.40 Irish Dominion 3.10 Hit The Bid 3.40 Chuinto 4.10 Daring Bridge 4.40 Andy Clyde

GOING: Good to Firm, Firm in places. Right-hand course with 500yd run-in. 1st Course in N of city on A49. Handed station to ADM. 2nd Course: 1st 1/2 mile, 2nd 1/2 mile, 3rd 1/2 mile, 4th 1/2 mile, 5th 1/2 mile, 6th 1/2 mile, 7th 1/2 mile, 8th 1/2 mile, 9th 1/2 mile, 10th 1/2 mile, 11th 1/2 mile, 12th 1/2 mile, 13th 1/2 mile, 14th 1/2 mile, 15th 1/2 mile, 16th 1/2 mile, 17th 1/2 mile, 18th 1/2 mile, 19th 1/2 mile, 20th 1/2 mile, 21st 1/2 mile, 22nd 1/2 mile, 23rd 1/2 mile, 24th 1/2 mile, 25th 1/2 mile, 26th 1/2 mile, 27th 1/2 mile, 28th 1/2 mile, 29th 1/2 mile, 30th 1/2 mile, 31st 1/2 mile, 32nd 1/2 mile, 33rd 1/2 mile, 34th 1/2 mile, 35th 1/2 mile, 36th 1/2 mile, 37th 1/2 mile, 38th 1/2 mile, 39th 1/2 mile, 40th 1/2 mile, 41st 1/2 mile, 42nd 1/2 mile, 43rd 1/2 mile, 44th 1/2 mile, 45th 1/2 mile, 46th 1/2 mile, 47th 1/2 mile, 48th 1/2 mile, 49th 1/2 mile, 50th 1/2 mile, 51st 1/2 mile, 52nd 1/2 mile, 53rd 1/2 mile, 54th 1/2 mile, 55th 1/2 mile, 56th 1/2 mile, 57th 1/2 mile, 58th 1/2 mile, 59th 1/2 mile, 60th 1/2 mile, 61st 1/2 mile, 62nd 1/2 mile, 63rd 1/2 mile, 64th 1/2 mile, 65th 1/2 mile, 66th 1/2 mile, 67th 1/2 mile, 68th 1/2 mile, 69th 1/2 mile, 70th 1/2 mile, 71st 1/2 mile, 72nd 1/2 mile, 73rd 1/2 mile, 74th 1/2 mile, 75th 1/2 mile, 76th 1/2 mile, 77th 1/2 mile, 78th 1/2 mile, 79th 1/2 mile, 80th 1/2 mile, 81st 1/2 mile, 82nd 1/2 mile, 83rd 1/2 mile, 84th 1/2 mile, 85th 1/2 mile, 86th 1/2 mile, 87th 1/2 mile, 88th 1/2 mile, 89th 1/2 mile, 90th 1/2 mile, 91st 1/2 mile, 92nd 1/2 mile, 93rd 1/2 mile, 94th 1/2 mile, 95th 1/2 mile, 96th 1/2 mile, 97th 1/2 mile, 98th 1/2 mile, 99th 1/2 mile, 100th 1/2 mile, 101st 1/2 mile, 102nd 1/2 mile, 103rd 1/2 mile, 104th 1/2 mile, 105th 1/2 mile, 106th 1/2 mile, 107th 1/2 mile, 108th 1/2 mile, 109th 1/2 mile, 110th 1/2 mile, 111th 1/2 mile, 112th 1/2 mile, 113th 1/2 mile, 114th 1/2 mile, 115th 1/2 mile, 116th 1/2 mile, 117th 1/2 mile, 118th 1/2 mile, 119th 1/2 mile, 120th 1/2 mile, 121st 1/2 mile, 122nd 1/2 mile, 123rd 1/2 mile, 124th 1/2 mile, 125th 1/2 mile, 126th 1/2 mile, 127th 1/2 mile, 128th 1/2 mile, 129th 1/2 mile, 130th 1/2 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754th 1/2 mile,

Davies makes historic mark

Davies' mood was not im-

Europe's Laura Davies plays her second shot on the first fairway during yesterday's Solheim Cup singles at Muirfield Village.

SPANIARD MIGUEL Angel Jimenez holed a magnificent chip over a bunker for a birdie two at the final hole to win the Lancome Trophy in sensational manner in Paris yesterday.

Jimenez, who shot 69 for a four rounds aggregate of 273, 11 under par, looked to have lost it when he dropped a shot at the 17th hole. His bogey left him one behind America's David Duval and level with defending champion Mark O'Meara, all having one hole to play.

But the Spaniard had the advantage of playing behind his two opponent. While he waited on the tee at the 20th yard, 18th hole he saw Duval go into the water and O'Meara hit the grandstand on the other side.

Duval finished with a disastrous double bogey five and O'Meara dropped a shot so, with both Americans finishing on nine under par, Jimenez needed only a par three to win.

Yet this looked most unlikely when Jimenez followed O'Meara's example and went into the side of the grandstand.

He was left with an awkward 38 yard chip over a bunker, but he hit it perfectly and it rolled straight into the hole to give him victory by two strokes.

Asked how he felt when his final tee shot went astray Jimenez said: "I knew I still had a good chance of a three because I had plenty of green to work with."

"Then I hit a very solid chip just the way I wanted. When it bounced on the green I saw the line and thought to myself 'Oh my God, it's going in.'"

SPANIARD MIGUEL Angel Jimenez holed a magnificent chip over a bunker for a birdie on the 17th hole to win the two at the final hole to win the Lancombe Trophy in sensation at all manner in Paris yesterday.

Jimenez, who shot 69 for a four rounds aggregate of 273, 11 under par, looked to have lost it when he dropped a shot at the 17th hole. His bogey left him one behind America's David Duval and level with defending champion Mark O'Meara, all having one hole to play.

But the Spaniard had the ad-

vantage of playing behind his two opponent. While he waited on the tee at the 209 yards, 188th hole he saw Duval go into the water and O'Meara hit the grandstand on the other side.

Duval finished with a disastrous double bogey five and O'Meara dropped a shot score with both Americans finishing on nine under par. Jimenez needed only a par three to win.

Yet this looked most unlikely when Jimenez followed O'Meara's example and went into the side of the grandstand

He was left with an awkward 30 yard chip over a bunker, but he hit it perfectly and it rolled straight into the hole to give him victory by two strokes.

Asked how he felt when his final tee shot went astray Jimenez said: "I knew I still had a good chance of a three because I had plenty of green to work with."

"Then I hit a very solid chip just the way I wanted. When I bounced on the green I saw the line and thought to myself 'Oh my God, it's going in.'"

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TICKETS!

Don't miss the special 50th issue of **HAMMERS NEWS MAGAZINE** – the official monthly magazine of West Ham United – to have the opportunity to win **FREE** tickets for a game at Upton Park and also find out who **YOUR** top 50 all-time West Ham players are! Also including the **1998-99 TEAM POSTER**, a brand new diary column from **FRANK LAMPARD**, exclusive interviews with **RIO FERDINAND**, **IAN PEARCE** and **SHAKA HISLOP**, plus a special Vintage Claret feature on **TONY GALE**. It's essential reading for all Hammers fans. **HNM** is on sale in all good newsagents.

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SHEFFIELD SHARKS and Derby Storm, with three wins each, are the only unbeaten teams in the Budweiser League after only the second weekend of the season.

Derby defeated London Towers 92-85 on Saturday night to briefly take a clean lead, but Sheffield joined them last night by beating the Greater London Leopards, the League Champions, 108-83.

The Sharks completed a winning double after beating Leicester City Riders 91-74 in a bad tempered game on Saturday.

Storm's coach Bob Donald's on-court general was Nate Reinking, who played for him two years ago during his first season at Leicester. Reinking hit 17 first-half points.

Reinking, 25 points in all, of Sin'Rorrick Williams, 22 points, and 8ft Sin Nick Alderson, 20 points, bypassed London's massive height advantage. After Williams's three-pointers gave Derby a 67-43 lead, the Towers never went closer than 10 points.

Sheffield's Terrell Myers hit seven points in a 15-3 run for a 45-32 lead over the Leopards, then a 15-4 spurt immediately after the break put the home side 68-44 ahead.

Manchester Giants line-up proved to be no compensation whatsoever for the club, having lost Porter Roberts on Thursday under salary cap regulations.

White scored with just two shots out of 17 as the Giants lost 82-69 at home to Thames Valley Tigers while Tony Dorsey, another big summer signing, fared even worse with just one successful shot out of 17 attempts.

The Birmingham Bulletin clinched their first win with a 5-0 run in the last two minutes to win 58-54 at Milton Keynes Lions.

AUTUMN GRAND TOULOUZIANENI
(Telugu) (Swamish day) (of 15):
Ikhinussami (1st week 5, last 2) bt Asancho (3-4)
3-1: Wakanjo (4-3) bt bt Akashcho (3-4)
Terao (5-2) bt bt Asanawacha (3-4)
Kotomazuma (2-5) bt Ganru (4-2) bt bt
bt bt: Tachinowacha (4-3) bt Toki (4-2)
Hamanoshima (3-4) bt Mazonzu (2-5)
Kotomazuma (3-4) bt Goto (4-2)
Kotomari (3-4) bt bt Kaho (1-6): Higou-
noumi (4-3) bt Tachinowacha (5-2) bt bt
bt bt: Kyokushuzan (3-4) bt Minato (4-2)
(0-7): Kotomowaku (3-4) bt Wakamato (3-4)
3-5: Musuyama (4-3) bt bt Kaho (3-4)
Hyorakachi (4-3) bt Deima (3-4)
Tokuami (5-2) bt Asanawa (2-5)
3-6: Musoshimaru (6-1) bt Tachizawa
ma (1-5): Wakamohana (6-1) bt Agoyama
ma (2-5): Akebono (6-11) bt bt Takayama
(3-4) bt: Takanohana (6-11) bt Tamaoka-
suzo (1-6).

Martina Hingis, the world No 1 defeated Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario yesterday to give Switzerland a 2-1 lead over Spain in the Fed Cup world group final. Hingis beat Sanchez-Vicario 6-2, 6-1 (5-6), 6-2, increasing her record over the Spaniard to seven consecutive wins, her winning streak dating back almost two and a half years. Though Sanchez-Vicario did win a famous resolute tie-breaker, fighting off Hingis at 10-8 in the end the Swiss teenager was too strong.

PRESIDENTS' CUP (Chesham)
The Presidents' Cup, a 16-team event, started yesterday with the following results: Russia 5-1 Karelinnikova (Rus) to C Popovic (Fr) 6-2 6-2; 1 Nemann (GB) beat H. Nemann (Fr) 3-6 6-3 6-4; Final: H. Nemann (Fr) 6-2 6-1.

FED CUP World Group Final (Switzerland)
2 Spain 1-1 A Sanchez-Vicario (Spa) to P Schröder (Swi) 6-2 3-6 6-2; M Hingis (Swi) 6-2 6-1 (6-4) 6-2; Hingis beat Sanchez-Vicario 7-6 6-3.

ROMANIAN OPEN (Bucharest)
After a long break, the Romanian Open tennis tournament, semi-finalist: P. Canes (Fr) 6-4 6-2 6-1; 1. Nemann (Fr) 6-2 6-1.

la (Sp) by M-K Goellner (Gr) 5-4-6
 A Costa (Sp) by V Sanprodre (It) 7-5
 6-0. Flauti: Manilla (Sp) by Costa (Sp)
 (GB) and K Whigley, semi-final M Broad
 (GB) 7-5. Flauti: Manilla (Sp) by Costa
 (Gr) and L Ullrey (Sp) 5-4-7-3.
 Flauti: Broad/Ullrey
 Archers/Denazette 6-7-6-3.

SHOOTING (at Sheffield) 19-20
 1980-81. Semi-final: J McGraw (Aus)
 6-4-7-5-4. Final: A Naumann (Aus)
 6-4-7-5-4. McGraw (Aus) 6-3-3-3.
 1981-82. Semi-final: J McGraw (Aus)
 6-4-7-5-3-1. Final: J McGraw (Aus)
 6-4-7-5-3-1. McGraw (Aus) 6-7-5-2-6-4-3-1.
 1982-83. Semi-final: J McGraw (Aus)
 6-4-7-5-3-1. Final: J McGraw (Aus) 6-4-7-5-3-1.

**TODAY'S
NUMBER**

360

The number of points conceded by seven Welsh rugby union teams in the first round of European Cup and Conferences matches this weekend

[The page contains faint, illegible markings and artifacts.]

THE INDEPENDENT
Monday 21 September 1998

County Championship: Despite no stars and a non-playing captain Leicestershire take the title

Teamwork keeps the Foxes ahead

BY DEREK PRINGLE
Cricket Correspondent

IT WAS the last match of the season that all became apparent. Leading their closest rivals Surrey by nine points, Leicestershire played four-day cricket as it is meant to be played. Indeed, so good was their approach with bat and ball, that it ended a day early, Surrey rolling over like a Labrador tired of fetching the same old stick.

Typically it was a collective effort: a hefty dollop of Ben Smith seasoned by a pinch of Alan Mullally and a dab of Chris Lewis as well as other offerings. Like Angostura bitters Leicestershire's ingredients are many, varied, and quite often subtle. Indeed only four players, Mullally, Smith, Vince Wells and Aftab Habib are in the top 20 of the bowling and batting averages. This is a team that would have burgeoned under Communism.

Momentum is everything if you have no Lara-like superstars, and Leicestershire, having won their last six matches, had enough to see them through to next season. In fact, they have been on a roll since the beginning of the 1996 season and have lost only three of their last 51 Championship matches. It is an incredible record, considering the throwaway mentality, long entrenched in county cricket.

Their coach Jack Birkenshaw, a rare example of a modest Yorkshireman, simply puts the success down to team spirit, a nebulous phrase that explains everything and nothing.

Leicestershire might have forged a tight unit who work hard for one another, but that is what success tends to bring. In the 1980s Essex had probably the best dressing-room and the best team in the country. To see them now, is to witness just how quickly things can go awry, which is why there is more to the champions' success than mere teamwork.

If not losing is a confidence booster, winning, especially against the odds, is even more of a stimulant to the collective belief system. The epiphany came when Chris Lewis led his side to an improbable victory over Northamptonshire on 17 July. Needing 204 from 20 overs in their second innings, Leicestershire won with five balls to spare. More importantly they knew from that moment on, that no side or situation was beyond them. And so it proved.

Ask anyone involved closely with the game and they will tell you that a Championship cannot be won without a top notch and varied bowling attack. Normally this would be perfectly



Vince Wells (centre right) leads the celebrations after taking the wicket that secured the title for Leicestershire at The Oval on Saturday

David Ashdown

true, but in one of the wettest summers of the last 50 years, spin was rarely needed and headed by the new improved Mullally, and backed up by Lewis, David Mills, James Ormond and Wells, seam and pace dominated.

Only Lancashire could match their firepower, though even potential treble-winning sides need something other than bullets, which is probably why they have signed Muttiah Muralitharan, the Sri Lankan off-spinner, for next season.

Mullally, whose 60 wickets and more muscular action have been rewarded with a trip to Australia with England this winter, has been the perfect spearhead. More importantly, he has stayed fit, something Birkenshaw attributes to his recent marriage

rather than a winter spent in the gym.

The batting, apart from the twin peaks of Smith and Habib, who averaged 64.7 and 61.9

respectively, also dovetailed. Even so, Darren Maddy and Phil Simmons, the batting hero when they won the Championship in 1996, had modest seasons.

One of the signs of a good side is that someone comes up with something, even when all looks lost. For Leicestershire to have that fighting spirit is all the

more remarkable when you consider they had effectively done a decent job.

As chance would have it, the carrot-mad Simmons respond with 194, his only century of the season, while the stick-catalysed Lewis took 6 for 60 in the next match against Warwickshire. Whoever was responsible for the psychology ought to be sent to sort out other lost souls like Phil Tufnell.

Leicestershire have come a long way in the last few years under their chief executive, David Collier. Long gone are the days when a crate of light ale was the sole refreshment placed in the dressing-room at the end of play. These days visiting players can have what they like, though judging by the way Leicestershire have despatched teams all season, only one side has been drinking champagne.

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LEICESTERSHIRE'S UNBEATEN RUN

Leicestershire's victorious finish to the season against Surrey at The Oval extended their unbeaten Championship run to 21 matches. Below are their results since losing to Sussex by 88 runs at Eastbourne on 9 August last summer.

1997
26 Aug: bt Derbyshire by 168 runs, Grace Road
27 Aug: drew with Glamorgan, Grace Road
10 Sep: drew with Northamptonshire, Northampton
18 Sep: bt Durham by 17 runs, Grace Road

1998
23 April: drew with Worcestershire, Grace Road
13 May: bt Gloucestershire by nine wickets, Bristol
21 May: drew with Hampshire, Grace Road
29 May: bt Derbyshire by 38 runs, Chesterfield
11 June: drew with Kent, Grace Road
17 June: bt Glamorgan, by 140 runs, Cardiff
26 June: drew with Sussex, Grace Road
1 July: bt Durham by innings and 108 runs, Darlington

14 July: bt Northamptonshire by four wickets, Grace Road
30 July: drew with Lancashire, Old Trafford
5 Aug: bt Somerset by innings and 86 runs, Grace Road
19 Aug: bt Middlesex by eight wickets, Grace Road
26 Aug: bt Nottinghamshire by innings and 223 runs, Worksop
1 Sept: bt Warwickshire by 73 runs, Edgbaston
9 Sept: bt Essex by innings and 99 runs, Grace Road
17 Sept: bt Surrey by innings and 211 runs, The Oval

Winning farewell for emotional Wasim

WASIM AKRAM brought the curtain down on a glorious 10-year association with Lancashire by leading them to second place in the County Championship via a 161-run victory over Hampshire at Old Trafford yesterday.

After some entertaining and uninhibited hitting from the Hampshire tailenders, the inevitable home triumph arrived 40 minutes into the final morning of the season when Gary Keedy snared Shaun Udal to confirm Wasim would leave

Lancashire on an appropriate winning note.

The runners-up cheque was safely in keeping, but Wasim was more concerned with thanking the Lancashire cricketing public and his team-mates, along with a deep swell of emotion as he leaves it all behind. "I am thrilled, happy and yet sad to be going. All of that I feel after such a great season and 10 years when we have worked so hard and achieved so much," he said.

"Over the years it has been such

a wonderful place for me. I shall miss the spectators, the players and most of all the enjoyment.

"It was never the money, but knowing when I come here I am going to enjoy myself and my cricket and the people. All that was always very important for me."

Wasim is handing the captaincy over to John Crawley and the overseas player spot to the Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan as he prepares to put his own energies into clearing up bribery

allegations that have been dogging him and Pakistani cricket.

He insisted the run of success for Lancashire - AXA League and NatWest Trophy winners this summer and also buoyed by this week's news that their coach Day Whatmore has signed a new long-term contract - will continue without him.

Wasim's own involvement on the field was minimal as Hampshire's last three batsmen all sought to make it worth everyone's while coming back for a match that at one

stage looked certain to end on Saturday night until low sun stopped play for the second consecutive day.

Hampshire, easily defeated but unbowed, had plenty to savour after posting a number of successes, in contrast to a 1997 that was moderate at best.

Courtney Walsh rounded off another highly successful season - and possibly his Gloucestershire career - in familiar style to help clinch his county a fourth-place finish in the tale.

The West Indian fast bowler finished with figures of 5 for 82 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge yesterday to emerge as the county's leading wicket-taker, pipping Andy Caddick for the honour with a total of 106 victims.

It was the seventh time this season that Walsh has claimed a five-wicket haul and it set up a 189-run victory that condemned Nottinghamshire to another heavy defeat in what has been a miserable end to their season.

Artist Felix pots prize

TENNIS

BY JOHN ROBERTS
in Bournemouth

EAGER to address his hosts in English, Felix Mantilla took the microphone and thanked everybody, including the "ball-boys", who happened to be girls. It was one of the Spaniard's few unforced errors on the day he successfully defended the Samsung Open singles title, defeating Albert Costa, the 1996 champion and a fellow citizen of Barcelona, 6-3, 7-5.

Mantilla's excitement was understandable. It was his first victory against Costa on the ATP Tour in five attempts, and his first tournament success since leaving the West Hampshire Club with the trophy 12 months ago. Sun, sea, and a cheque for \$54,000 (£32,000) made him a happy tourist.

Spectators were treated to an artistic style of tennis rarely seen on Wimbledon's lawns as the Spaniards crafted their points on the slow green clay court. Rallies of between 20 and 25 shots were liberally sprinkled with lobs and drop shots, and the movement on both sides of the net was fast and intelligent. Moreover, volleying was not neglected when the opportunity arose.

Patience is a key to success on clay, and Costa's was almost exhausted by the time he lost his serve to love for 1-3 in the second set. A howl of frustration was followed by a cry of "aaaargh!" in the next game as the No 2 seed missed with a forehand on his first break point of the match. He netted a forehand on a second opportunity, but on a third lured Mantilla into hitting a backhand long.

Costa, whose efforts had seen little reward until that point, was back in the game, and Mantilla began to worry that yet another contest with his compatriot was about to run away from him. "Albert has very good physique, and I don't know what would have happened if he had won the second set," the No 3 seed said.

Mantilla made sure the question remained unanswered. Costa, after serving to stay in the match at 4-5, won only one more point - the first match point - before netting a forehand to lose after an hour and 28 minutes.

"It wasn't revenge, but it was a challenge for me to win today," Mantilla said. "I have only ever beaten Albert before at the national championships in Spain."

Evidently comfortable on the Bournemouth clay, Mantilla noted that it differed from European red clay. "It doesn't take top-spin so well, and the clay seems heavy and the ball slow," he said. "But you still have a good chance to win if you have good mentality and a strong physique."

Fit as he is, Mantilla, who is 24 on Wednesday, resembles one of Bournemouth's senior citizens with his bleached hair. He dyed it after a bet with fellow player Luis Lobo. "I'm letting it grow out now," he said.

Henman heads for Hannover

TIM HENMAN has moved into eighth place in the race to the ATP Tour Championship in Hannover after successfully defending the President's Cup in Tashkent yesterday, defeating Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 7-5, 6-4.

Although Henman's world ranking remains at No 11, based on his 14 best tournaments over a rolling 52-week period, only this season's results earn qualification for the eight-man ATP Tour finale from 23-29 November.

The British No 1, who recovered from a stomach upset to defeat Kafelnikov, was fortunate in the opening set. Kafelnikov, serving for the set, hit three double-faults, and Henman then had a lucky net cord. On match point, Kafelnikov hit a good passing shot as Henman attacked, the Briton launching himself at the ball and landing a volley over the net.

"It was not a classic confrontation by any means," Henman said, "but I'm pleased."

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance Championship

Derbyshire v Middlesex

Derbyshire (Day 4 of 4): Derbyshire (24pts) beat Middlesex (4pts) by 4 wickets

INNINGS: Derbyshire 195 (Smith 4-60)

Middlesex: First innings 883 (Robins 91, Kricken 51)

Derbyshire: Second innings 346-9 (Shah 116, Westley 96, Gathing 62, Dean 5-93, Cork 4-97)

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Glamorgan v Somerset

Glamorgan (Day 4 of 4): Glamorgan (21pts) beat Somerset (4pts) by 288 runs

Glamorgan won toss

Glamorgan: First innings 248 (Cottee 64, Dale 60, Pierson 4-94)

Somerset: First innings 133 (Thomas 4-56)

Glamorgan: Second innings 278-9 dec. (James 54, Pierson 5-117)

Somerset: Second innings Over/Out 31-1

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Nottinghamshire v Gloucestershire

Nottinghamshire (Day 4 of 4): Nottinghamshire (23pts) beat Gloucestershire (5pts) by 189 runs

Gloucestershire won toss

Nottinghamshire: First innings 319 (Allyson 72, Windward 63)

Gloucestershire: First innings 249 (Giles 50, Walsh 4-72)

Nottinghamshire: Second innings 411-7 dec. (Hancock 220, Smith 55, Windward 52, Aftab 4-101)

Gloucestershire: Second innings Over/Out 105-2

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Gloucestershire: Second innings Over/Out 105-2

Nottinghamshire: Second innings Over/Out 105-2

Warwickshire v Kent

Warwickshire (Day 4 of 4): Warwickshire (23pts) beat Kent (4pts) by 189 runs

Warwickshire won toss

Warwickshire: First innings 323 (Knight 68, Wagh 65, Smith 39, Ebdon 5-49)

Kent: First innings 197 (Marsh 57, Walker 57, Gidley 4-61)

Warwickshire: Second innings 293-8 dec. (Brown 81no, Kemp 74, Frost 50)

Kent: Second innings Over/Out 18-1

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Stability the key word for Saints

THOUGH KENNY DALGLISH and Christian Gross may not agree, there are leagues where management is even more precarious than in the Premiership. Before August was out four managers had been sacked in Brazil, one of them after just one game; a Cypriot club had fired their new boss for losing two friendlies; Empoli, in Italy, had dumped theirs before the season had even begun while Real Betis kicked off in Spain with their third manager in four weeks.

While managers have long accepted that the only certainty in their profession is the sack this is clearly excessive. The one compensatory factor in many countries is that he only deals with the first team and a dismissal does not affect the club as a whole.

Traditionally this is not the case in England with a change in management often being followed by the introduction of new coaching staff right down to youth level. Though a few clubs have moved to the Continental model progress is slow which makes the discovery that 50 of the 92 League managers have only held their current jobs since the beginning of last year quite worrying.

Thirty of those have been appointed in 1998 while only seven of the 92 have been in the job for at least five years (the five-year survivors are: Dario Gradi, Crewe Alexandra, June 1983; Alex Ferguson, Manchester United, November 1986; Alan Curbishley, Charlton, July 1991; Joe Kinnear, Wimbledon, March 1992; John Duncan, Chesterfield, February 1993; Alan Little, York City, March 1993; Sammy McIlroy, Macclesfield, June 1993).

All of which makes the survival of David Jones appear, on the face of it, remarkable. After all, Delgish had overseen two draws and Gross a win and two defeats when they got the bullet. Jones went into Saturday's match with Tottenham with five league defeats out of five, the club's worst-ever start.

For many years being overlord at The Dell was a relative surety. A retirement sack was more likely than the sack as Ted Bates, Lawrie McMenemy and Chris Nicholl held sway from 1955 to the beginning of the decade with barely a hint of an execution.

But then Southampton caught the spirit of the times with changes in dug-out and boardroom. Somehow, through all this upheaval, they maintained a top flight status they have held since 1978 but, until last



GLENN MOORE

Southampton 1
Tottenham Hotspur 1

season; the escapes were frequently last-gasp.

Jones' impressive first campaign has understandably bought him time but, he explained after the 1-1 draw, there is more to it than that. "People ask 'is your job under pressure?' but you can't just throw away 12 months' work. A lot is being done behind the scenes to strengthen the club at all levels. The foundations are there, it is a matter of keeping the first team on a level at the same time."

Southampton's chairman, Rupert Lowe, is footballing *nouveau riche* having only come to the sport in the last couple of years. Ted Bates, however, is president and Keith Wiseman, the FA chairman, an influential voice on the board. To judge from Wiseman's support for Glenn Hoddle he is not a fire 'em, fire 'em type.

Jones' belief in a positive future was given substance on Saturday by the performances of three teenagers, Kevin Gibbons, Wayne Bridge and Phil Warrner. While all appeared out of their depth at times each showed enough promise to suggest the production line which once produced the Wallace brothers, Alan Shearer, Tim Flowers and Matt Le Tissier is working again which, for a club of Southampton's resources, is imperative.

Le Tissier is still there, as infuriating as ever. Jones is constantly leaving him out, and constantly having to recall him. Saturday's performance was typical. He was lazy, indolgent and a prime reason for Southampton being overrun in midfield. He was also behind most moves of consequence and scored a classy goal, the 200th of his Southampton career, which transformed the game.

Until then Southampton, full of players whose best days are ahead or behind them but few at their peak,



Tottenham's Les Ferdinand climbs above Southampton defender Carlton Palmer at The Dell on Saturday

Robert Hallam

had been taken apart by Tottenham. Defensively inept they showed their lack of confidence, confirmed by a record of one Premiership win and nine defeats since April. After a misleadingly bright start, when Bridge should have scored, they conceded possession and ground and were punished by Rui Fox's neat shot-on-the-run.

Then Jones pulled the previously anonymous Mark Hughes into mid-

field, pushed Le Tissier forward, and within minutes the Welshman released the Channel Islander for his equaliser. Southampton, their confidence renewed, might well have gone on to win it but Hans Segers, in his first Premiership match since New Year's Day 1996, capped an impeccable display of handling with a sharp save from Gibbons.

Such is the game's psychology Southampton will now feel more

buoyant than might be expected of a team in last place. Tottenham, meanwhile, have seven points from six games despite the softest opening programme of the Premiership. They now renew their search for a new manager. Alan Sugar's sixth, amid continued uncertainty about their ownership. When he reflects upon the dreary football of the past four years, and the constant battles with relegation, Sugar may reflect

that perhaps he should have stuck with Ossie Ardiles after all.

Goals: Fox (25) 0-1, Le Tissier (53) 1-1. Southampton (4-3-1-2): Jones, Warrner (Lundholm, 53), David, Palmer, Babb, Gibbons, Fowler (Beattie, 53), Bridge, Le Tissier, Carragher, Hughes. Southampton not used: Wiley, Boshman, Moss (94). Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-1-1): Segers, Carr, Vega, Carragher, Tomaszewski, Fox, Calderwood, Berti (Dorrington, 74), Clarence, Grealish, Ferdinand, Subashan. Not used: Edinburgh, Gower, Armstrong, Walker (94). Referee: K. Borge (Torquay). Bookings: Southampton: Berti, Tottenham: Calderwood, Tomaszewski. Man of the match: Segers. Attendance: 15,204.

Leeds lack special breed

BY GUY HODGSON

Leeds United 0
Aston Villa 0

THIS WAS dire, but at least George Graham had not donned the virtual reality goggles managers normally wear on these occasions. The match, he agreed, was begging for a piece of individualism. Others could have pinpointed accurate passing and shooting, but no one would fault his analysis.

Genuine Championship contenders have players who do something different, who plant doubts in opponents' minds and so create time. Individualism, in short, and on this evidence neither Leeds nor Villa possess enough of the special breed. That will limit their horizons.

Graham realises this, and his future at Elland Road depends on the board's willingness to address the problem. For months he has been saying Leeds need three players to compete with Arsenal and Manchester United. So far, little or nothing has happened.

"I'm still searching," Graham said when he was reminded, explaining, "It's very difficult to buy players in the first month of the season, unless Newcastle or Chelsea are having a clear-out."

Which prompts the obvious question over why Leeds let the summer go by with only Clyde Winkler (£1.5m) and Danny Granville (£1.5m) to show for it. The answer, almost certainly, is money, and that is what is casting doubts about Graham's continuing career at Elland Road.

On the radio beforehand Graham had pook-pooked suggestions he might join Tottenham - Spurs made an official approach that was rejected yesterday - but was less than adamant he would never leave Leeds. "You never say never in football," he said, which was a barely veiled threat to Leeds' owners.

Villa's John Gregory is more fortunate, and his signing of a new contract suggests he realises this. The selling of Dwight Yorke was not encouraging, but any club which buys Stan Collymore for £7m can not be accused of an unwillingness to gamble with big stakes.

If Gregory could get Stan the Invisible Man to rediscover a striking presence then an alliance with Paul Merson has potential to lift Villa from the "good, but no better" category. They are, like Leeds, sound defensively but lacking something further forward, as a combined total of 12 goals from 12 matches underlines. Leeds' peak arrived in a flurry, when Ian Harte cut in from the left and thumped a shot against the post so hard the rebound had such a furious pace that Lee Bowyer did not have enough time to aim his header. The goal was gaping but he hit the bar.

Villa were fortunate, as Gregory acknowledged, although they might have won the game after 86 minutes when Robert Moleenaar marred an otherwise exemplary day for defenders by chesting a pass with precise care into the path of Julian Joachim. The small striker sped away but pushed his shot wide.

"Both sides are top six," Graham said, "and not ready to join the big boys," an assessment not mirrored by Gregory. "There's room for improvement," he countered, "but you have to remember we are inexperienced at this level. Paul Merson apart, nobody has been top of the Premiership before. We're going to work hard to stay there."

Different men, different thoughts but if these really are the best and third best teams in the Premiership English football is in more trouble than we imagined. Leeds United (2-3-3): Merson, Hiden, Radice, Moleenaar, Harte, Bowyer, Hopton, Ribeiro (Hart, 73), Nalls, Hamblin, Kewell (Sharpe, 75). Southampton not used: Wetherall, Wilford, Robinson (94). Aston Villa (5-5-2): Bosnich, Ebigbo, Southgate, Barry, Charles (Grayson, 61), Hendrie, Taylor, Thompson (Dorset, 60), Wright, Merson, Joachim. Southampton not used: Ferrer, Vassell, Oakes (94). Bookings: Aston Villa: Taylor, Wright. Referee: J. Winter (Stockport-on-Tees). Man of the match: Southgate. Attendance: 33,446.

Charlton exploit defence's soft centre

NEVER MIND sex and lies in Washington DC - Liverpool should be required to squirm through a video scandal of their own today. So flawed was their defence against Charlton that the tape ought to be buried in a time-capsule beneath the Kop to show future generations how not to do it. And to think that their next match is at Manchester United.

One half of Anfield's managerial duo, Gerard Houllier, sounded like a presidential aide when he tried to pass it off as "one of those days". Another one against Messrs Yorke, Giggs and Beckham on Thursday and the ill-starred alliance of Phil Babb and Jamie Carragher at the heart of Liverpool's back four may not be the only partnership under pressure.

Houllier and Roy Evans stated when their peculiar arrangement began during the summer that they

BY PHIL SHAW

Liverpool 3
Charlton Athletic 3

were looking for a commanding figure to marshal their defence. Hardly a vote of confidence for the existing personnel, but two goals conceded in the first four games suggested the problem might have been exaggerated.

After seeing Babb and Carragher repeatedly embarrassed by a team fresh from the First Division, a week after a chastening experience at West Ham, Evans was forced to admit that the search was ongoing. "But if the players aren't out there," he sighed, "you can't sign them."

Liverpool were unlucky to lose Mark Wright, who had to retire. Hindsight has vindicated the decision

to sell the injury-prone John Scales. Saturday's shortcomings were so basic, however, that offloading Neil Ruddock began to seem hasty. At least he was dominant in the air, scarcely his successors' strongest suit.

The only mitigation for either was Paul Ince's absence. He shields the back four from players running at them in a way which only Arsenal's French midfielders can rival and Steve Harkness could not duplicate. But even the most exposed defenders should be able to complete elementary clearances.

Ironically, the player who gave them a lesson in unfussy, effective protection of the keeper was as local as the Liver bird. Eddie Youds came through the ranks at Everton until, finding his progress blocked by Dave Watson and Kevin Ratcliffe, he joined Ipswich and then Bradford.

Charlton paid £550,000 for him in March.

Youds is a journeyman, burly enough to scrum down for Warrington or Widnes. Yet where Babb dithered, he was decisive; where Carragher drifted, betraying his midfield origins, he held his position. Apart from Robbie Fowler, who scored twice in an otherwise low-key return, he was the only Scouser present to take anything positive from the afternoon.

The Charlton camp were not happy either. Who would have believed it? They score three and take a point at one of the superpowers. Clive Mendonca displaces Michael Owen in the Premiership scoring chart and their fans silence the Kop with a song by a Beatle; yet still they leave disappointed.

That strangest of anthems, McCartney's "Mull of Kintyre", was still

ringing out after Richard Rufus' headed opener when the same player was dubiously adjudged to have felled Owen. Fowler levelled from the spot only for Mendonca to restore the visitors' advantage after Danny Mills' acceleration had highlighted Steve Stamton's unease at left-back.

Almost immediately, it would have been 3-1 but for pedantic refereeing. Instead of waiting to see whether Charlton gained any advantage after Andy Hunt raced clear to "score", Paul Alcock penalised Carragher's late foul on John Robinson. It was soon 2-2 thanks to Patrick Berger's thunderbolt, and Charlton faced a travesty when Fowler scrambled a soft third.

The hapless Babb, misdirecting a header, allowed Steve Jones to ensure a fairer outcome. Having led for only 90 seconds over the 90 minutes, Liv-

erpool could hardly have complained had Mendonca not wasted a free header two minutes from time.

Still, Charlton can be satisfied with their start. They have emerged from a daunting run of away fixtures with three deserved draws and only one defeat, 4-1 at Old Trafford, Liverpool, who must pray that Ince is fit, will need to defend considerably better there to avoid a similar fate.

Goals: Rufus (24) 0-1; Fowler pen (32) 1-1; Mendonca (61) 1-2; Berger (67) 2-2; Fowler (82) 3-2; S. Jones (83) 3-3. Liverpool (4-4-2): Friedel; Heggem (Thompson, 85), Carragher, Babb, Staunton (Marzouk, 64); McManaman, Redknapp, Harkness (McCartney, 61), Berger, Owen, Fowler. Southampton not used: Murphy, James (94). Charlton Athletic (4-4-2): Ilic; Mills, Rufus, Youds, Powell; Newton, Winstell (K Jones, 74), Redfern, Robinson, Mendonca, Hunt (S Jones, 76). Southampton not used: Brown, Mortimer, Patterson (94). Referee: P. Alcock (Hailwood, Kent). Bookings: Liverpool: Carragher, Charlton: Redfern, Mills. Man of the match: Youds. Attendance: 44,326.

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SPORT

HOLYFIELD'S CHAMPION SHOW P19 • JARRETT HURDLES TO GOLD P23

Premiership showdown: Butt sees red for second time in five days as Ferguson's men are left chasing shadows

United eclipsed by the champions

UNITED WORE black at Highbury yesterday, a foolish colour in broiling heat but never more appropriate to their performance. Behind to first-half goals from Tony Adams and Nicolas Anelka they were reduced to shadows long before they were reduced to 10 men when Nicky Butt was sent off.

Butt's dismissal, for the second game in succession, came when he was harshly adjudged to have denied Patrick Vieira a goalscoring opportunity six minutes into the second-half. Though Butt followed former United players Mark Hughes and Eric Cantona in being sent off at Highbury this was not as spiteful as these matches have often been in recent years, United were never competitive enough for that. Their palsied performance fully deserved the final humiliation of a debut goal for Frederick Ljungberg, who must feel his reported low opinion of English footballers is ever more valid.

It was Arsenal's fourth successive victory over Manchester United inside a year at three different venues. The goal difference is 10-2 with Arsenal's defence undisturbed for five hours. Such dominance is unusual between championship contenders and there were clear signs that Arsenal have established a psychological edge over their unusually quiescent rivals.

With Vieira dominant, Marc Overmars a menace and the defence as resolute as ever Arsenal were even able to carry Dennis Bergkamp, who continues to search for a goal and his form. United are less capable of protecting Jaap Stam, who remains out of his depth. Not that defence was the only problem.

With Ryan Giggs curiously given a central striking role alongside Dwight Yorke they lacked midfield creativity, despite the untiring efforts of David Beckham, and attacking menace. They remain within the pack but Arsenal are now fifth, four points off early leaders Aston Villa.

It was about time one of these predators broke cover. Both have spent the early part of the season in the mid-table undergrowth, shaking

BY GLENN MOORE

Arsenal 3
Manchester United 0

off post-World Cup fatigue and allowing the likes of Villa, Charlton and Wimbledon to gambol in the high ground at the top. Now it was time to show their pedigree.

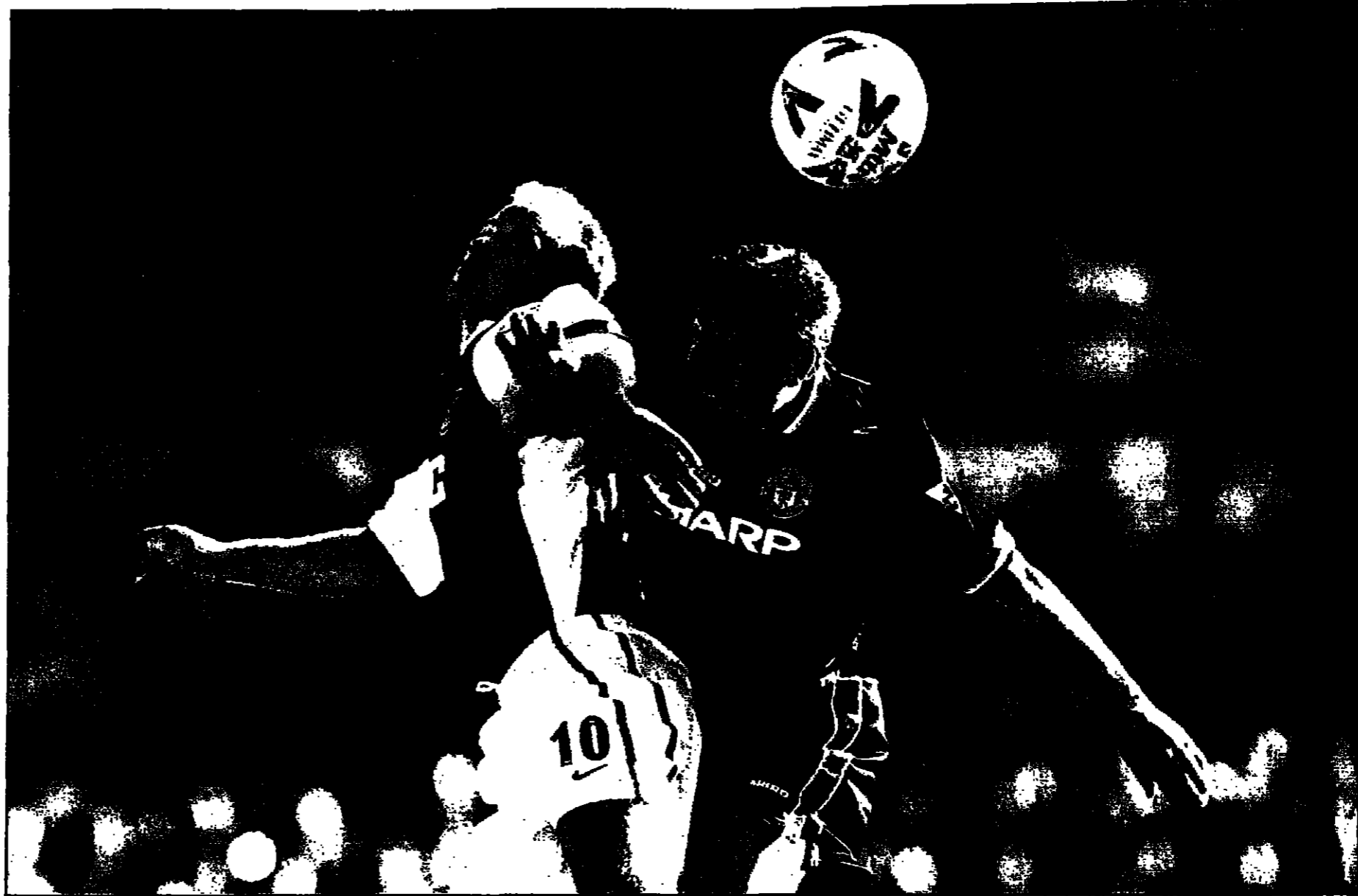
Arsenal were first to move, Bergkamp volleying over after Stam and Peter Schmeichel had got in a familiar tangle. United responded with a Beckham free-kick which David Seaman read well. It was a brief foray as Arsenal, better balanced in midfield and attack, took control. Stephen Hughes, an admirable replacement for the injured Emmanuel Petit, released Overmars for a cheeky shot which Schmeichel saved at his near post while even Lee Dixon got forward to test the Dane.

Then Jesper Blomqvist fouled Ray Parlour on the right. Hughes whipped the free-kick in and Adams, having lost his marker, Roy Keane, rose above Stam and ahead of Schmeichel to head in.

Bergkamp wasted two chances as Arsenal continued to dominate but then the champions had a moment of fortune. Beckham, given space 28 yards out, took possession and, while the boos were still forming in the Arsenal fans' throats, drilled in a shot which struck one post, rolled across the goal and into touch just wide of the other.

It was as close as United were to come. Arsenal resumed the assault and Parlour and Anelka both had chances before Stam, having made a fine tackle on Vieira, let Anelka escape onto Overmars' through ball. Schmeichel saved his first shot, but not the rebound.

Two-nil, and it got worse after the break as Butt, having been caught in possession, brought down Vieira on the edge of the box as he attempted to stone. Vieira was breaking clear but was wide of the goal with Stam coming up alongside. It looked a yellow card but Graham Barber, apparently believing it would take more than the presence of Stam to prevent it being a clear goal-scoring opportunity, pulled out the red. As Butt turned away in dismay Barber disappeared in a mass of dissenting back shirts. Schmeichel, alert to the danger of losing another team-mate, pulled them away one by one but not before Keane had talked his way into the book.



Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp leaps to challenge Manchester United's Dennis Irwin during yesterday's match at Highbury

David Ashdown

For all United's undoubted spirit-

it that was game over. Arsenal do not throw away two-goal leads against 10 men and the insipid way United set about the task suggested they knew it. Even Alex Ferguson seemed unconcerned about a substitution, perhaps he felt that having played their way into this mess the remaining players should stay

out there and suffer the consequences. For their part Arsenal kept their shape and patiently waited for the opportunity to rub in their superiority.

It ought to have come after 65 minutes but Anelka missed after Yorke had carelessly given the ball away to Bergkamp. Finally Ljung-

berg administered the coup de grace, chipping over Schmeichel after Hughes' chip forward had fallen to him. The sight of Stam and Schmeichel blaming each other in the wreckage of the United defence spoke volumes.

Goals: Adams (13) 1-0; Anelka (43) 2-0; Ljungberg (84) 3-0.
Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Dixon, Keown, Adams,

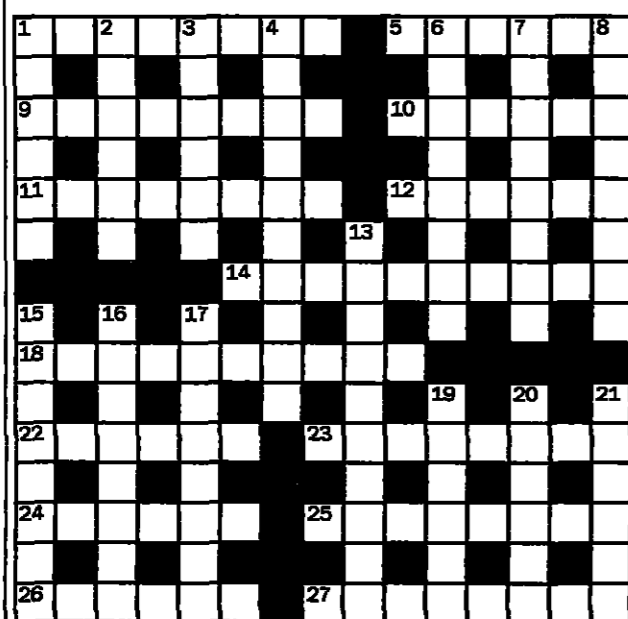
Winstanley; Parlour, Vieira, Hughes, Overmars; Anelka (Ljungberg, 79), Bergkamp. Substitutes not used: Wright, Boudry, Gorré, Newinger (41).
Manchester United (4-4-1-1): Schmeichel; G. Neville, Stam, Berg, Irwin; Beckham, Keane, Butt, Blomqvist; Giggs; Yorke. Substitutes not used: P. Neville, Cruick, Sobieski, Scholes, van der Gouw (94).

Referee: G. Barber (Surrey).
Send-off: United's Butt. Bookings: Arsenal's Hughes, Ljungberg, United's Keane. Man of the match: Vieira.
Attendance: 26,142.

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3721 Monday 21 September

By Fortia



26 Ancient city in Egypt he besieged (6)
27 Note ill-tempered youth leader's left (8)

DOWN

1 Contemporary style of service (6)
2 Kind of viral infection that attacks flower cluster (6)
3 A point brought up about the Spanish lady (6)
4 Wildly funny? (10)
5 Enough agree with bill going ahead (8)
6 English guard to be disbanded are furious (8)
7 Fine second game played indoors (8)
8 He disputes stretch of river (10)
9 Native's approaching, we hear (8)
10 Advanced sort of net bound to catch creature (8)
11 Calm fears about firm since break in (8)
12 Indulged the Italian drop out (6)
13 Endlessly ponder over order for jewellery (6)
14 Pretend to be busy with sport at first (4, 2)

ACROSS

1 Girl's choir I join produce Mexican music (8)
5 Forced one to leave and cut loose (3, 3)
9 Reduce number housed in the German facility (8)
10 Sounds like Greek character's a metalworker (6)
11 Principal in a rush didn't go (8)
12 Kindly being backed by European (6)
14 Up-market shopping area? (4, 6)
18 Can let room out on the Riviera (5, 5)
22 Discrimination against those getting on (6)
23 Lay for a relatively short time (8)
24 Book flight (6)
25 Struggle putting in border plant (8)

Bergkamp shows his value

BY ADAM SZRETER

FOLLOWING HIS outstanding year for Arsenal, and arguably his best for anyone, it has not taken long for the vultures to gather at the prospect of Dennis Bergkamp's fall from grace, which has been as spectacular as one of a number of his goals for club and country last season.

Yet to open his scoring account this time around, Bergkamp has admitted he is struggling to recapture the kind of form that made him Footballer of the Year and took Arsenal to the brink of the Double before a hamstring injury led him to miss the FA Cup final and the decisive Premiership victory at home to Everton last May.

Although he recovered in time to take his place in the Netherlands World Cup squad, there was little time for him to

regain match fitness. Indeed he missed the opening match against Belgium before being restored to the side and making an impressive contribution in the run to the semi-final against Brazil, including scoring arguably the goal of the tournament against Argentina.

The theory is that his exertions in France have taken the edge off his game and his manager Arsène Wenger has said he would like to give him more time to recover. But having sold Ian Wright, Arsenal do not have the strength in depth to be able to do that and so Bergkamp has to play his way back.

There were signs in the previous league game at Leicester that some of the sparkle was returning to his game and al-

though he failed to make a dramatic impact yesterday he will probably be pleased that he let no one down in a match of such significance.

Tightly marked by his countryman Japp Stam, the value of having Bergkamp in the side even when he is below his best was plain to see: Stam and Henning Berg seemed constantly aware of the threat Bergkamp can pose.

A growing understanding between Bergkamp and Ray Parlour was quickly in evidence, with a Bergkamp shot sailing just over in the first five minutes.

There were one or two poor first touches and stray passes before he twisted his way past Dennis Irwin to test Peter Schmeichel once more, but generally his presence was

more than enough to justify his selection.

It was a testament to his experience and quality that, when with 10 minutes to go Fredrik Ljungberg was introduced for his Arsenal debut, it was Nicolas Anelka and not Bergkamp who made way for him.

A shot into the side netting was the closest Bergkamp had gone in the second half, but ironically, Anelka had been virtually anonymous until scoring what proved to be the decisive goal just before half-time.

A moment in the final minute encapsulated Bergkamp's afternoon when a shot by Marc Overmars came back off Schmeichel and was begging to be put away. Bergkamp was the first forward to react, but his lack of pace saw Berg beat him to the ball to clear United's lines.

Sugar sweetens pot for Graham

BY ALAN NIXON

GEORGE GRAHAM will be offered a large six-figure signing-on fee as part of a lucrative package to entice him from Leeds United to Tottenham.

Graham can pick up a "golden hello" from struggling Spurs if he decides to move to them from Elland Road. The figure may approach £750,000 and be paid tax-free and in advance.

Spurs made an official faxed approach yesterday and were

rejected, but will try to invoke a clause in Graham's contract that allows him to talk to another club if they pay compensation.

The Tottenham chairman, Alan Sugar, is prepared to fork out the £1m "transfer fee" for Graham and hand him a huge up-front cheque to take charge at White Hart Lane. Leeds are threatening to seek more

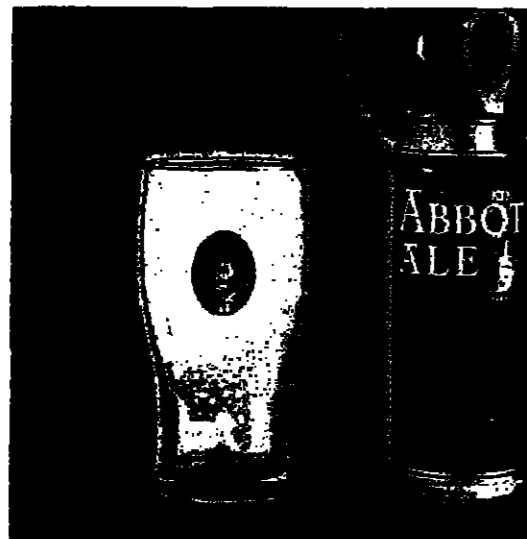
money, but that may have to be settled legally. Graham can also collect a salary of about £800,000 a year and is bound to be interested in a move to London to be near family and friends.

Leeds are waiting anxiously for the next step, but those close to Graham believe he will ask for permission to speak to Spurs. The switch could even go through this week.

Graham has been making his

excuses to leave for the past fortnight, citing a lack of transfer funds as a major problem. He is also aware that the current team are unlikely to better last season's performance when they qualified for Europe.

The question of how much money is available to spend on Spurs is still to be addressed, but the personal terms should tempt a man who has always known the value of a bavbe.



Re-incarnation

ABBOT ALE WORSHIPPED SINCE 1791

21 September 1998

THE INDEPENDENT

21 September 1998

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

Look back in panic

Richard E Grant is best at playing the neurotic, manic luvvie, perhaps because that's what he is.

But he has turned his back on the past and reinvented himself so successfully, it's hard to tell

Richard E Grant, actor, novelist and diarist, whose entry for last Tuesday might have gone something like this: "Tuesday, September 15. To party, to celebrate the publication of my debut novel, *By Design*, at the Pharmacy restaurant and bar in West London. The tiresome girl from *The Independent*, the one my publishers made me have lunch with earlier, turns up. She says: 'It's just like having a drink down your local Boots, isn't it?' Pretend I've never seen her before in my life. Big, smoochy hug for Celia Imrie, who cries: 'Richard! Rob looks! How do you do it? Act, act, act, write, write, write...' I'm all buttery, puppy-pleased until tiresome girl from *The Independent* asks if this is luvvie-speak for 'I hate you, you flash clever-dick'. Nibble something peevish on a little stick. Go home to beddy-byes. Dream that the tiresome girl didn't tell me off for changing my name. Dream she didn't say: 'Richard Esterhuysen isn't so bad. It could have been worse. It could have been Richard Ester-Rantzen.' Then wake up and realise she did."

OK, my experience, now. First, the lunch, where I wasn't tiresome in the least. In fact, I am known to be quite attractive company in the right light and, as for my assertion Richard Esterhuysen would have been considerably worse than Richard Esterhuysen, I think I was pretty much spot on, frankly. Anyway, we meet at Leith's in Kensington, which is quite smart, and has pleasant, lemon, colour-washed walls, unlike the Pharmacy which has been cleverly designed by Damien Hirst to look, yes, just like Boots. Drinks decanted into medical bottles, bar stools shaped like massive aspirins, huge glass cabinets displaying Amisol, which is just what you want to see when you go out of a night. Richard arrives looking gorgeously dapper in a little riding jacket thingy with velvet collar. He's attractive in an edgy way, but not especially sexy. Too sunken-looking, like someone forgot to inflate him properly. Indeed, now I think about it, he looks rather like one of those balloons you get from the National Gallery of Munich's *The Scream*, after it's burst. However, being almost as direct and honest as I am untiresome, I decide not to point this out.

Richard says he has just come from home. He has been married for the past 15 years to Joan Washington, the voice coach, and they have a young daughter, Olivia. Richard is entirely devoted to both. He can't even bear it when, at the later do, Joan strays for a moment from his side. "Where is my wife?" he cries. He played the road manager in the movie *Spice World* because Olivia begged him to take the part. She is, he says, a huge Spice fan. "She regularly dressed in Laura Ashley little-girl gear prior to the release of 'Wannabe', at which point she was transformed overnight into an eight-year-old slattern." I say I'm concerned for Baby Spice. What's going to happen to her when, say, Posh has her baby. Is she going to turn into Jealous Older Sister Spice? Is she going to poke it in the eye, then cry: "It wasn't me! She did it herself!"

Richard, it turns out, is as worried as I am. He says, even, that having more than one kid is probably a bad idea. "Oh, I see couples with two, three kids and they're not so much parents, more referees." Oh, come now I protest, that is going too far. Siblings are, on the whole, good things, blood being thicker than water and all that. He says he has a brother, Stuart, who still lives in South Africa, where they grew up, and whom he hasn't seen since he was 17. Why not? "Nothing in common." Did you ever have anything in common? "No. We always had separate rooms, separate schools. Can't even remember ever playing together." How bizarre! "Is it?" "Yes." You see your siblings regularly, then? "I do." And you get on? "Well, my brother spent most of our childhood writing 'Up The Gunners' in laundry pen on my forehead while I was asleep, but I have long since forgiven him." I think it's immensely reassuring, somehow, to have these people about with a shared history. Richard says he just doesn't need that reassurance which, possibly, he doesn't. He is quite self-invented in many ways. The big question, when it comes to Richard E Grant, may even be not who he is, but who he once was and isn't any longer. He is quite complicated, I think.

He can, yes, be a terrifically good actor. Although, that said, his choices are not always wise. *Jack and Sarah* - yuki! *Hudson Hawk*, he accepts, was a "great self-basting turkey", and he never really cuts it as a romantic lead. In the BBC's forthcoming adaptation of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, he is less the dashing hero and more Richard E Grant going about in big cuffs thinking he's Lawrence Llewellyn Bowen. He was superb as the demented scriptwriter in Robert Altman's *The Player* and, of course, brilliant as the down-and-out thespian in the film that launched him, *Withnail and I*. He is at his best doing manic, panicky, utter-degradation-beneath-the-surface stuff, perhaps because that's partly how he is. He might never have surpassed his performance as Withnail, actually, and I wonder if this bothers him. I mean when, years later, you are introduced to Steven Spielberg in Hollywood, and he says, "Ah, yes. Withnail", isn't it rather irritating? "Absolutely not. Better than a blank. And it means after you've done one thing that's great, it is your passport," he says.

He can also be a jolly good writer. His diaries, *With Nails*, published last year, are wholly delicious. "25th January. Julian Sands takes me to lunch at The Farmers' Market... Jodie Foster half-jogs by and comes over as she's a friend of Julian's. Lasers me with the compliment she has taken four sets of people to see *Withnail and I*. Oh, sweet, waffle, syrup thank-you Jodie. My brain is bleating to try and act casual, but body parts have curled up to their toes." He is really good at getting into the mind-set of the hopeless neurotic luvvie, while being one himself. He can simultaneously be tourist and attraction, which is quite a hard thing to pull off. But - the other thing about Richard - is that he just won't stick to what he's good at.

On the strength of the diaries, he has now written his first novel, *By Design*. It wasn't something, it transpires, he had a burning desire to do. But after *With Nails*, "a lot of publishers thought I had it in me to do fiction. There was a bidding war. Picador offered the most... a very lucrative and enticing offer." The book, subtitled "A Hollywood Novel", is the tale of Vyvian and Marga, childhood friends from an African country who have always dreamed of Hollywood. To cut a long - exceedingly so, it often seems - story short, they both end up there, he as an interior designer to the stars, she as a celebrity masseuse. Along the way, we are introduced to a cast of washed-up actresses, on-the-make actors and many other one-dimensional, stereotypical monsters who, possibly, do exist in Los Angeles but just do not come off the page here. It is overwritten in a way that's OK in diary form, but not, perhaps, in fiction. Talk is "nitroglycerine down the ear of some poor recipient" and, as Vyvian is being seduced, he notes: "Should she guide my now throbbing Titanic into her iceberg, I would definitely be sunk."

He seems happy with it, though. He did a lot of research in LA. He got a lot of good advice from Steve Martin. "I was going to end it with an earthquake until Steve pointed out that at least three novels this year have ended in earthquakes." Well spotted, Steve, is all I can find to say.

I think that, sometimes, Richard's hunger to be someone and stay being someone can work against him. He has always had a great hunger for fame. As a young boy, growing up in Swaziland, he would say to himself: "One day, I'm going to be famous." Why, Richard? "Because I just didn't want to be anonymous, I suppose." At 11, he was putting puppet shows on in his garage. At 14, he was writing letters to Barbara Streisand - to Columbia Records - inviting her to stay: "I read in the paper that you were feeling very tired and pressurised by your fame and failed romance with Mr Ryan O'Neal. I would like to offer you a two-week holiday, or longer, at our house..." As such, he now seems to accept pretty much anything that's offered. It's like, if you let anything slip through your fingers, then everything might slip away. There is, definitely, a kind of panic to him.

He was born Richard Esterhuysen in Mbabane, Swaziland, a tiny country on the eastern edge of South Africa, and part of the British Empire until its independence towards the end of the Sixties, by which time it had filled up with white, colonial refugees. "You know, the sort who had left India, then Kenya, then Zimbabwe, but did not want to go home to Surrey or Sussex, so ended up in Swazi." His father, Hendrik, was the county's director of education while his mother, Leonie, worked as a part-time secretary. Mbabane had three streets, a butcher, a baker, a bank and a colonial secretariat. "Of course, everyone knew everyone else. And no marriage stood a chance of surviving more than three weeks, as there was nothing to do except have affairs."

Mbabane was, he continues, excellent practice for Hollywood. "Being far away from home, people could invent themselves. Everyone seemed to be a character of some sort. There was the lawyer who could recite the whole of *Hamlet* when drunk, but couldn't remember a word of it when sober. There was the German ambassador who clicked his heels to attention and knocked off a lot of the Swazi ladies. There was a guy who made rockets which never took off, just skidded along the ground. There was the woman who came around one day, to announce to my father that she hadn't had sex with her husband for 25 years, like it was some trophy of achievement..." He says he always knew he wanted to get out. And always knew he wanted to be an actor. Escape on all fronts, maybe, was what he was looking for.

The big event of Richard's childhood came at 11, when his mother went off with a mining engineer, leaving Richard and Stuart with their father. "The social stigma was very acute. Affairs were one thing, but divorce was another. The children at school were very cruel and kept asking where she was. I used to cry at night." His father, who eventually died prematurely of lung cancer at 51, fell apart. "It was like having to parent your parent." Although he still saw his mother at regular intervals, the experience changed him fundamentally. "Literally, your world goes in two, and you can suddenly see, unequivocally and cynically just how the world works. When your parents split up, and then their friends divide and sub-divide - you can see that, as much as you might be

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THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW



INSIDE

NETWORK
INCLUDING APPOINTMENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity

PFI too dear?

Sir: You report "Mandelson under fire on bonuses" (report, 17 September) on the decision of the TUC conference to oppose the Private Finance Initiative. This decision follows John Prescott's comments at the TUC regarding PFI earlier in the week.

Specifically, Prescott argued that PFI is essential to allow more money to be allocated for health and education. In fact, and on the basis that the Government generally allocates all the spare cash it has to health and education, the use of PFI reduces the amount available for health and education. This is because PFI is a more expensive way for the public sector to acquire the use of assets, as compared with the public sector borrowing funds and buying the assets direct.

Take the case of a PFI project to provide the public sector with the use of an asset with an estimated economic life of 20 years. Over the 20-year period, the PFI investor has to recover the capital cost of the asset, and earn a return on the net funds invested. While the details of return enjoyed on PFI contracts must - on the grounds of commercial confidentiality - remain secret, it is reported that at least one City PFI fund manager is offering returns of up to 15 per cent per annum to investors. By contrast, the public sector can currently borrow via a 20 year gilt at around 5 per cent per annum. Treasury figures suggest that the value of assets procured for the use of the public sector in the years 1997/98 to 2000/01 will total about £12bn.

Assuming an average rate of return for PFI investors of just 10 per cent per annum, then for every £10bn net assets in use under PFI at any one time, the cost to the taxpayer is £500m per annum higher than if the assets had been acquired by the public sector directly. This effectively represents money diverted from hard-pressed education and health budgets in the long run.

The Treasury might like to reflect on this every time a new PFI contract is signed.

MC FITZPATRICK
Head of Economics
Chantrey Wellacott
London WC1

Microsoft's role

Sir: Microsoft employs 22,000 and General Electric 276,000, so who is really the most important to the economy and to the communities they operate in ("Microsoft topples GE as king of the market", Business, 17 September)?

In the UK we have allowed industries employing many people, for example coal and steel, to decline because they do not appear to be as financially sound on paper as, for instance, a city firm, employing few but generating profit. However, entire communities were supported by the former and large tax revenues raised.

Perhaps we need a fiscal tool such as a subsidy to firms based on their number of employees to make up for this, and Government policies encouraging full employment as well as financial growth. It would act as a check against simple downsizing which, although assisting the market value of a company, does not help the economy as a whole.

BOB GOODALL
St Albans, Hertfordshire

Children's interests

Sir: The flip way your leader "A statement of the obvious", 18 September, dismisses parents of disabled children is clearly not informed by any contact with parents struggling to get the right education for their child. As an organisation which every day hears distressing stories from such parents we fear that the stage is being set to reduce the rights of children with statements of special educational need.

The "problem" defined by the Audit Commission in its report on special needs affects local education authorities. The

solutions - often involving shifting resources from one area to another - are intended to take the pressure off the statutory duties of the LEA and shift it to parents and schools. Or in other words, moving the emphasis away from statementing, which legally entitles children to extra help, to the discretionary provision provided by schools.

Our experience is that help is only guaranteed where there is a statutory duty.

LEA problems stem from the fact that insufficient extra resources were put into special educational needs following the introduction of the Code of Practice in 1994. Expenditure by LEAs on pupils with statements of special educational needs has gone down since the code was introduced. The suggestion that special education is draining education budgets is a myth. The Audit Commission appears to be playing with figures by suggesting that spending is rising on SEN. Latest DfEE figures show that £1.69bn was spent by LEAs on pupils with statements of special educational needs in 1996-97 compared with £1.22bn for 1994-95.

ACE would argue that this is an argument to better finance special education, especially if inclusion of disabled children into mainstream schools is to succeed, not remove the hard-won rights of children with disabilities.

MARGARET MCGOWAN
The Advisory Centre for Education, London N5

Sir: When parents are successful in their efforts to gain the targeted help and protection of a formal statement for their children it is the culmination of an agonising search for proper help for complex needs.

Their motive is their children's education and happiness - and that alone.

The special needs labels derided in your leader are crude descriptions of complicated, unique

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Sir: What a nation of blinkered whimps we British have become. To be a member of a great union of nations and yet stay on the sidelines while the single currency is launched to

report of the article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* ("Alternative medicine a health risk, say experts", 17 September).

As a GP and medical homeopath, I draw to your attention that parts of the world of complementary/alternative medicine are governed responsibly. The Faculty of Homeopathy was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1950 to oversee and regulate medical homeopathy. The faculty promotes effective, safe homeopathic medicine, practised by qualified doctors and other registered healthcare professionals. There are established disciplinary procedures.

The public may be unaware that in many areas the evidence base for orthodox medicine is non-existent, and the potential for harm substantial.

The evidence base for medical homeopathy is far from complete.

However, one example of the many supportive studies is as follows. Of a group of 506 outpatients at the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital with a range of conditions including back pain, arthritis and allergies, 81 per cent improved with regard to their main problem and 80 per cent in their overall well-being. Of the 300 who were on conventional drugs at the outset, two-thirds reduced or stopped them.

Dr KATHY RYAN
Council, Faculty of Homeopathy
Birkenhead

Sir: Marcia Angell and Jerome Kassirer choose two categories of medicine: that which has been adequately tested and that which has not.

But for those of us on the non-expert receiving end, there are two far more important categories - that which works and that which does not, or, if it does work, goes on to produce side-effects more grisly

than the original condition for which it was prescribed.

It has to be said that many people turn to alternatives after conventional medicine has failed them, particularly in the notoriously difficult areas of asthma, eczema, arthritis and compromise of the auto-immune system.

Before we consign alternative therapies to the trash can, perhaps we should ask the *New England Journal of Medicine*, to carry out two further investigations.

Bearing in mind that a GP prescribes powerful drugs every day, how long on average does an undergraduate doctor spend learning about pharmaceuticals and the skills of drug prescription? As a result, how much power do drug companies subsequently wield over the prescription pad?

BARBARA POINTON
Thriplow, Cambridge

Isolating Serbia

Sir: Robin Cook has agreed to bow to European pressure and isolate Serbia.

We are constantly told how the majority of the population in Kosovo are Albanian. That means the Serb population is the minority. The Serbs are now to be isolated, surrounded by Croatia and Albania, historical enemies.

The Serb population was decimated during the Second World War by the Croat Ustaše. Now they are to be diplomatically punished yet again, for managing what might be called terrorism in their own country. Albania clearly has territorial aims in Kosovo. Arms are flowing in from Albania.

Serbia was the only Balkan territory that refused to ally with the Nazis and it was surrounded by Nazi puppet states. Will it now find itself in a similar hopeless situation? What right does the EU have to investigate what might become an unstoppable persecution of Serb civilians?

HUGH W GLEAVES
London

IN BRIEF

see whether it is a success (and lots of us no doubt for nationalistic reasons hoping it will not be a success) before we take up our option to join in.

Instead we should be in there with all the other nations to make sure it is a success. We did not stay on the sidelines in 1939 to see whether the rest of Europe was conquered by Hitler before we joined the war.

JOHN BATE
Oxford

Sir: I read with interest the letter "Modified Wealth" (16 September). Your readers, and indeed Colin Pickthall MP, may wish to learn of a series of public discussion forums taking place around the country in which consumers are invited to put forward their views.

These events, organised by

Foodfuture - an information programme on the benefits and concerns of genetic modification - have witnessed heated debate around the UK, with audiences grilling expert panels representing the range of scientific, consumer and industry opinions.

Mr Pickthall may wish to note that entrance is free of charge.

MARTIN PATTERSON
Food and Drink Federation
London WC2

Sir: Following Peter Mandelson's remarks to the TUC (17 September), I would be intrigued to know whether Rupert Murdoch regards Labour as a "soft touch", or whether there was a robust negotiation before the party agreed to tug its forelock whenever they meet.

JON GRAY
Bath



MILES KINGTON
For heaven's sake, was I hoicked out of the pub for this lot of piffing queries?

added to the urgency and seriousness of the decisions being thrashed out. But in these days of

the non-acceptability of smoking, these back rooms must be filled with something else. Body odours and sweat? Chewing gum, perhaps? But 'BO-filled back rooms' doesn't sound right and 'gum-filled back rooms' doesn't sound right either. Do you know if there is a correct modern term?

Dr Wordsmith writes: I haven't the faintest idea. For heaven's sake, was I hoicked out of the pub just now merely for this lot of piffing queries?

Now, that's an interesting word. Dr Wordsmith writes: What - piffing?

No - hoicked. I know it's a word we often use in daily speech but I don't think I've ever seen it written down before.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Well, you have now.

Yes, but how do we know how to spell it properly, if we've never seen it written down before? Dr Wordsmith writes: You look it up in the dictionary, dummkopf.

Okay, I will... Well, my Collins and Cassell both give it as 'hoick', meaning, to raise abruptly. My shorter Cambridge doesn't give it at all.

Dr Wordsmith writes: Do they say what its origin is?

No. They are baffled. I suppose 'hoick' is one of those words which we say a lot but never write down because they are not part of our literary vocabulary such as 'dosh' and 'gash', as in 'a gash copy'...

Ceramic collection

Sir: The Tate shares your correspondents' concerns (letters, 15, 17 September) about the future of the Janet Leach Collection of ceramics, principally by Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada. Leach was a powerful force in St Ives, which is why we have been delighted to show a group of his works as part of our displays at the Tate Gallery there.

However, this does not mean that we should begin collecting ceramics for the Tate. The national collection of ceramic art is at the Victoria & Albert Museum, which has the expertise to make and care for a collection of contemporary ceramics. The V&A has been a generous lender to exhibitions in the past and we enjoy our collaboration with them on projects which require the inclusion of ceramics.

We would be pleased to collaborate with the executors of Janet Leach's estate, so that the remaining pots in her collection could continue to be seen in St Ives.

NICHOLAS SEROTA
Director, Tate Gallery
London SW1

Sisters, or not?

Sir: I read your article "I'd never, ever forgotten her: A family affair" (Private Lives, 14 September), which described how Joseph and Joyce were reunited as brother and sister, with great interest because I, too, at the age of 59, have recently met my natural sister.

When I was a few weeks old I was given away by our parents for adoption. My sister was born 11 years later and only found out about me two years ago. For me, then, the story of Joseph and Joyce was compelling reading. But, like all these tales of lost and found, it was frustrating because these stories never go past the "how we lost each other and the joy now that we have found each other" scenario.

But it is after the finding and meeting that the difficult bit kicks in. What, after all, is the relationship between two sisters who, until their middle age, had never known each other? We searched each other for likenesses and found many. We agreed that we could be the kind of person we'd have had as a friend. But we are not by any means sisters.

I have been brought up with two sisters, sandwiched between my adopted parents' two natural daughters. I know what it is to be a sister and to have sisters. But with this new-found sister we meet as two middle-aged equal adults. Am I her elder sister? Do I want that role? And does she want suddenly to be a younger sister, she who up until now has been a much-loved only child?

And then there is family history. Surely that is what forges brothers and sisters? All that my new-found sister and I share is DNA. We have found each other but how do we move this relationship on? We don't live near each other. We both have our own families, daughters and grandchildren and they don't feel a part of the relationship.

So are we sisters or did we meet only to find that we are not? What does a shared set of blood and genes mean? We look fondly upon each other but we do not know what to do next.

What would your readers do?

MARGARET GOSLEY
Westhouses, Derbyshire

Love of books

Sir: The only people I can see who would benefit from "electronic books" ("Book you can read in the dark", 17 September) are people so addicted to computer screens that they have forgotten how to turn a page.

Wrapping yourself around a good book, the pleasure is heightened by the feel of the book, the smell and quality of the paper.

Living in an area where power cuts are still fairly frequent, reading by candlelight gives wonderful atmosphere to reading in the dark.

Mrs GERALDINE BURKE
Marsh Baldon, Oxfordshire

Words cannot describe everyday events in modern life

IT is time for another visit from our ever-popular word expert, Dr Wordsmith. Many of my readers are obviously worried by modern usage and bombard me with queries about the way English is used today, and I am only too happy to lever Dr Wordsmith out of the nearest licensed premises and get him to answer them for me. Take it away, doc!

Tell me, Dr Wordsmith, what the correct word is to use for the action you use with black bin-liner bags.

Dr Wordsmith writes: You fill them up and then chuck 'em in the dustbin.

can't use the bag immediately, because it's all squashed together and not opened up. So what we normally do is put one hand down inside the bag, flapping it from side to side to open it out, sort of swooshing it from side to side. There should be a word to describe this.

Dr Wordsmith writes: But there isn't, is there? Next, please.

I have always maintained that you can tell a lot about people from what they leave in their cars. You know, if you glance in through an empty car's windows, you can immediately tell the difference between a driver who has got a National Trust carrier bag in the back and one who has got 'The Sun'. Or one who's got a map of Hertfordshire and one who still has

a map of the Dordogne. I can spend hours in car parks just staring at people's... But people's what? There doesn't seem to be a name for it for the contents of a car. A word like 'jetsam' or 'flotsam', perhaps. Is there a word, 'carsam'?

Dr Wordsmith writes: No, I don't think there is. There should be, shouldn't there? Next, please!

In all the reports that have come out of Washington recently, about the backstage dealings of Kenneth Starr and the Republicans and the Democrats etc, there has been one phrase noticeably absent, and that is, 'smoke-filled back rooms'. In the old days, decisions were always being thrashed out in 'smoke-filled back rooms', as if the wraiths of cigar smoke somehow

the non-acceptability of smoking, these back rooms must be filled with something else. Body odours and sweat? Chewing gum, perhaps? But 'BO-filled back rooms' doesn't sound right and 'gum-filled back rooms' doesn't sound right either. Do you know if there is a correct modern term?

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Dr Wordsmith writes: Yes, I expect you're right.

Dr Wordsmith, may I just ask why, if you're meant to be the expert, we have done all the looking up in dictionaries and all the speculation, and you have just sat there, agreeing with everyone?

Dr Wordsmith writes: Because, dear friends, nobody likes a smart-arse and everyone likes an expert who doesn't seem to know what he's talking about. It makes them feel superior. Now, I'm off back down the pub again. Is anyone coming too?

Dr Wordsmith will be back again with more language notes as soon as he has sobered up or is chucked out of the pub. Keep those queries rolling in!

THE INDEPENDENT

1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
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The strange death of liberalism under Paddy Ashdown

PADDY ASHDOWN this week opens the most uneasy Liberal Democrat conference since he became leader 10 years ago. His situation is a paradox. He has the effir of electoral reform – the one thing his party really, really wants – poised between cup and lip, and yet his party seems determined to jog his elbow.

Viewed historically, the suspicion with which many Liberal Democrats regard Mr Ashdown is curious. Since he took over in 1988, he has only fought two general elections, obtaining a declining share of the vote each time, down from 23 per cent in 1987 to 18 per cent in 1992 and 17 per cent last year. However, this represents a remarkable holding of the line in the face of Labour's recovery and breakthrough, and bearing in mind the state of the Liberal-SDP coalition which he inherited and which imploded rather than merged, even coming fourth behind the Greens in the 1989 European elections.

In the longer-term perspective, Mr Ashdown's record is no less impressive. The Liberal Democrats now have more MPs than at any time since 1931, when the old Liberal Party finally split three ways. What is more, the Prime Minister has appointed Lord Jenkins, the grandest of Lib Dem grandees, to devise a new voting system for the United Kingdom, which should help the third force to gain even greater representation in Parliament in future.

It is at this point, however, that an unkind truth about electoral reform emerges. Which is that voting systems are only a means by which political goals are pursued, they are not ends in themselves. And it is when we turn to the political goals of the Liberal Democrats that Mr Ashdown's leadership is found wanting.

On what platform do the Liberal Democrats claim their right to fair and separate representation? An independent Bank of England and a limit of 30 on primary-school classes, as set out in their manifesto? With Mr Blair so ferocious in his ambition to occupy the middle ground of British politics, the policy differences between Liberal Democrats and New Labour are only marginal ones of degree. When Roger Liddle in the Number 10 Policy Unit sat down recently to write a memo to the Prime Minister comparing the Lib Dem and Labour manifestos, the only differences for him to note (apart from those relating to electoral systems) were a 50p rate of income tax on annual incomes over



£100,000; free nursery education for all three-year-olds, as well as four-year-olds, whose parents want it; and a maximum of 30 for all primary classes, not just for five-to-seven-year-olds.

The true purpose of changing the voting system is not to achieve proportionality but to promote pluralism, which is why Mr Ashdown's tactic of cosyng up to the Prime Minister is so self-defeating. Why does it matter if the Liberal Democrats are under-represented in Parliament if they have nothing different to say – if everything they have said in the past can now be said

from 10 Downing Street by Mr Blair? Mr Ashdown's suppression of his party's liberal instincts is a historic mistake.

Mr Ashdown needs to repel Mr Blair's naked bid for the soul of liberalism (which we publish today on the following page) by asserting his party's points of difference with New Labour. For example, it is the Liberal Democrats' missed opportunity that they have not opened up the debate on legalising drugs. They would still have won the Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election in 1995 if the party as a whole – rather than

simply the hapless candidate – had had the courage to call for a debate on decriminalising cannabis.

Why are the Liberal Democrats not leading the charge against the latent racism of the present panic about bogus asylum-seekers? Why did they not oppose the illiberal gesture politics of the Conspiracy and Terrorism Bill?

Part of the explanation is personal. Mr Ashdown, like Mr Blair, is not naturally attuned to giving power away or letting discordant voices speak. But we know the real reason Mr Ashdown has descended into this fudge: it is because he does not want to "rock the boat" while the Government's precious cargo – the Jenkins report – is unloaded. However, it is much more important to persuade the voters that the values of the Liberal Democrats can make their country a better place than to be on best behaviour for Mr Blair.

The base on which to build support for aggressive liberal values exists and is sound. The Liberal Democrats have a large body of local activists, are entrenched in local government and inherit a share of the national vote that has generally been above 15 per cent even in the darkest hours of the mid-century. If they are just a bucket for protest voters to spit into, they are a pretty big bucket.

But, in the task of building on that base, Mr Ashdown increasingly looks detached from his party, an elder statesman entering the end game of his political career, while his troops, more numerous and vigorous than ever, grow restless, ready for a new beginning. This week will see some intriguing manoeuvring for the succession, with Charles Kennedy and David Rendel hustling out of the gate as stalking-horses for the next generation: Lembit Opik or Mark Oaten. It is too early yet, but the prize should eventually go to whoever can best set out what the Liberal Democrats are for – something Mr Ashdown has ultimately failed to do.

If Mr Ashdown helps to deliver some kind of electoral reform that is more representative than simply the alternative vote (that is, allowing voters to number the ballot paper in order of preference), he will have earned his party's gratitude. However, his party knows that the real reason any voting change comes about is because Mr Blair wants it to and that its leader's task now is to seize the opportunity for genuine pluralism by making liberal values count.

Why Tony Blair will have to reform our voting system

THE LIBERAL Democrat conference that opens formally this morning in Brighton is the 10th Paddy Ashdown has attended as party leader. It could also be the last. For if Tony Blair were finally to decide against going to the country with a clear recommendation to support a change in the voting system, it is difficult to see the strategy that Ashdown has skilfully sustained for the last six years, and which he will seek to reinforce this week, as anything but a historic failure.

Having patiently deconstructed since 1992 the myth that the Liberal Democrats, as presently constituted, would ever have sustained in power a Tory government, he has seen real results from his arms-length alliance with Labour. He secured a change in the electoral system for the European elections, seats on a joint Cabinet committee on constitutional reform and, above all, thanks to tactical voting, a once unthinkable 46 seats in last year's general election. But without also winning a more proportional system for electing the House of Commons, he will have failed to carry off the glittering prize that would allow him honourably to form a future coalition with Labour; in which case, it's hard to see why he would want to stay in his present job.

The forces, moreover, are already marshalling to ensure that his career ends in just such a noble defeat. Outside the ranks of political junkies, electoral reform comes close to zero in the league table of subjects the voters are interested in. But its capacity to cause trouble is almost unlimited, because it affects the issue of prime concern to most politicians: their own careers.

It is true that some Labour MPs genuinely believe in the fairness of a first-past-the-post system. But to

DONALD MACINTYRE
If Ashdown is wrong about Blair's support for voting reform, he will not be the only casualty

mobilitise effective opposition to reform, these idealists have to rely on the naked self-interest of those MPs – mainly in safe seats – who simply fear for their survival in a system that would reduce the number of constituency MPs in all parties and increase the number of Liberal Democrats at their own expense.

And to judge by yesterday's BBC survey of MPs there are quite a lot of them. Nor are they alone. The Cabinet is divided. In an interview with this newspaper in 1995, Blair indicated he might allow ministers to campaign according to their individual preferences in a referendum on PR. But is it really credible that he would recommend change without securing the agreement of Gordon Brown, not to mention other sceptics like Jack Straw or John Prescott? Hardly.

Finally, Blair has to overcome his own multiple doubts. He shares Lord Jenkins' frustration that the division between Labour and the Liberals at the beginning of the century delivered most of the rest of it to the Conservatives. Electoral reform would indeed give Labour the opportunity of doing the opposite in the next century. On the other hand, having changed Labour into a party that appeals in its own right to the middle ground, he has always instinctively mistrusted PR as the quick fix to power.

His friend Romano Prodi, the Italian prime minister, never misses an opportunity to press on him what a mess a proportional system has made of government in his own country. And then there is the matter of the referendum itself – which no grown-up politician, including Ashdown, thinks would be a pushover.

Nevertheless the ice is beginning to crack. Lord Jenkins will, in all prob-

ability, recommend at the end of next month an electoral system that helps to institutionalise tactical voting by giving voters a second as well as a first preference in electing their constituency MPs and includes some form of top-up to make the final parliamentary outcome closer than it is to the distribution of the party's share of the national vote – but not so close that the large majority of MPs does not continue to represent individual constituencies nor that an overall majority for one party is impossible.

This latter point is important, meeting, as it does, one of Blair's main objections – that permanent coalition gives small parties a disproportionate share of power. There has been a civilised wrangle between Lord Jenkins and the Prime Minister about how large the top-up component would be, with Blair determined not to make it too large. For a man who allegedly hasn't made up his mind about change, the Prime Minister has been taking an awful lot of interest in the conclusions of the Jenkins report.

Which is partly – though only partly – why Ashdown remains confident that Blair will, in the end, support the changes recommended by his eminent mentor. My hunch is that he is right.

The new system is highly unlikely to be in place by the next election. Jack Straw appeared yesterday even to qualify his earlier declaration that the plan was to have a referendum in the current parliament. It could, for example, take place at the same time as the next general election. But happen it surely will. And the opposition, while formidable, is not invincible. In the Labour Party, for instance, PR would offer the only means of rescuing some MPs currently occupying enemy territory since the extraordinary landslide of May 1 last year by giving them the chance to compete for seats on a party list when the tide of Blairite popularity recedes in a second general election. So too with the Cabinet. Gordon Brown's best chance of succeeding Blair as prime minister, for instance, is for Labour to stay in office for the foreseeable future rather than be voted out of it.

If Ashdown is wrong, however, his own future will not be the only casualty. The Liberal Democrats will probably come off the Cabinet committee and start doing what many of its activists like best – attacking the Labour Party at every level. That's where the centrifugal pull of the party is – illustrated by an article by the MP Norman Baker in the current *Liberal Democrat News* calling for a little less of the "constructive" and a little more of the "oppositional". To which the answer in many Labour quarters is a resounding "so what?"

So quite a lot is the answer: The Liberal Democrats are maddening in lots of ways. Seventy-six years out of power have made parliamentary opposition a proud way of life for many of the delegates gathering in Brighton. Much of the party rank and file also suffers from an ideological schizophrenia: anti-state but in favour of tax and spending; self-professedly to the left of Labour while eager to preserve the theoretical right to form a coalition with the Tories. Moreover, while Ashdown has heroically – and rightly – striven to reposition the Liberal Democrats as the thinkers of the centre and centre-left, the menu of policies that will be served up this week is neither as innovative nor coherent as he likes to claim.

But the best of Ashdown's party – especially, but not only the section that defected from Labour in 1981 – is precisely what's missing from the Government now. A politics which mobilises the popular anti-Tory majority will be a more relaxed politics; one that might not depend so much on moguls like Rupert Murdoch, who continues to exact a price for helping Labour to stretch the party's own constituency to its limits. The Ashdown-Jenkinsite fragment of the centre-left, pro-Emu, mildly libertarian, not starchy about corporate power, gently redistributive, may be just what a long-term Blair administration needs to make it complete.

To start reuniting the centre-left is an aspiration the so-called New Labour loyalists who oppose reform should think carefully about before trying to sabotage it. It's not only a matter of what Labour can do for the Liberal Democrats. Much as they will no doubt exasperate the Government this week, it's also what the Liberal Democrats can do for New Labour.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't mean to pretend I am a saint-like person without any desire to engage in free love, but at the moment, all of my mental and physical energy is taken up with this tremendous task of reviving the Japanese economy."

Keizo Obuchi, Prime Minister of Japan, on the absence of sex scandals in his past

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Fools are in a terrible, overwhelming majority, all the wide world over."

Hendrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist

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IN THE absence of American leadership – a vacuum which, it must be hoped, will not last long after the release of President Clinton's video testimony tomorrow – it falls to Britain to remind the Western nations of their strategic responsibilities in the Middle East.

The Sunday Telegraph

TONY BLAIR meets Bill Clinton in Washington tomorrow. To show he is not just a fair-weather

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD
The Sunday papers consider the consequences of a weak presidency



could hardly come at a worse time, given the shortening odds on world recession. The world needs the US to lead bail-outs of economies in distress, fund the IMF and insist on co-ordinated economic expansion. Yet if the US is going to sideline it-

self, this places an especial responsibility upon Europe. The EU will have to act, offering aid to Russia, policing Iraq, intervening in Kosovo and pressing the Japanese to reflate. Sentimental embassies in Washington has political implications for Brussels. The EU's hour has come; it must not fluff it.

The Observer

AMERICA HAS had to live with lame-duck presidents before, argue the defenders of Mr Clinton. True, but then America is not longer a peripheral nation. In the 20th century the United States became the arsenal of democracy, so the consequences of presidential weakness have been dire. Now the world trembles on the brink of another recession. And who is president of the United States? Why, a laughing stock.

The Sunday Times

New politics for the new century



TONY BLAIR

In the first detailed outline of his personal political philosophy, the Prime Minister reveals the values and goals that guide him in government. It is published on the day that he joins President Bill Clinton and other world leaders at a seminar in New York to discuss this 'Third Way' in global politics

I HAVE always believed that politics is first and foremost about ideas. Without a powerful commitment to goals and values, governments are rudderless and ineffective, however large their majorities. Furthermore, ideas need labels if they are to become popular and widely understood. The "Third Way" is, to my mind, the best label for the new politics which the progressive centre-left is forging in Britain and beyond.

The Third Way stands for a modernised social democracy, passionate in its commitment to social justice and the goals of the centre-left, but flexible, innovative and forward-looking in the means to achieve them. It is founded on the values which have guided progressive politics for more than a century – democracy, liberty, justice, mutual obligation and internationalism. But it is a *third way* because it moves decisively beyond an old left preoccupied by state control, high taxation and producer interests, and a new right treating public investment, and often the very notions of "society" and collective endeavour, as evils to be undone.

My vision for the 21st century is of a popular politics reconciling themes which in the past have wrongly been regarded as antagonistic – patriotism and internationalism; rights and responsibilities; the promotion of enterprise and the attack on poverty and discrimination. The left should be proud of its achievements in the 20th century, not least universal suffrage, a fairer sharing of taxation and growth, and great improvements in working conditions and in welfare, health and educational services.

But we still have far to go to build the open, fair and prosperous society to which we aspire.

The Third Way is not an attempt to split the difference between right and left. It is about traditional values in a changed world. And it draws vitality from uniting the two great streams of left-of-centre thought – democratic socialism and liberalism – whose divorce this century did so much to weaken progressive politics across the West. Liberals asserted the primacy of individual liberty in the market economy; social democrats promoted social justice with the state as its main agent. There is no necessary conflict between the two, accepting as we now do that state power is one means to achieve our goals, but not the only one and emphatically not an end in itself.

In this respect the Third Way also marks a third way *within* the left. Debate within the left has been dominated by two unsatisfactory positions. The fundamentalist left made nationalisation and state control an end in itself, hardening policy prescription into ideology. Radicalism was judged by the amount of public ownership and spending. In opposition was a moderate left which too often either accepted this basic direction while arguing for a slower pace of change or ignored the world of ideas. Revisionists periodically tried to change

the agenda, but success was limited. The Third Way is a serious reappraisal of social democracy, reaching deep into the values of the left to develop radically new approaches.

A decade ago, the right had a virtual monopoly of power in the democratic West. In America, across Europe, even in Scandinavia, the right was in power, apparently impregnable. Today, the position is transformed. In most of the European Union, the centre-left is in office. While learning lessons about efficiency and choice, particularly in the public sector, we argue as confidently as ever that the right does not have the answer to the problems of social polarisation, rising crime, falling education and low productivity and growth.

Yet the left is not returning to the old politics of isolation, nationalisation, bureaucracy and "tax and spend". We are acting afresh. Across Europe, social democratic governments are pioneering welfare state reform, tackling social exclusion, engaging business in new partnerships, and establishing a stable economic basis for long-term stability and investment.

My politics are rooted in a belief that we can only realise ourselves as individuals in a thriving civil society, comprising strong families and civic institutions buttressed by intelligent government. For most individuals to succeed, society must be strong. When society is weak, power and rewards go to the few not the many. Values are not absolute, and even the best can conflict. Our mission is to promote and reconcile the four values which are essential to a just society which maximises the freedom and potential of all our people – equal worth, opportunity for all, responsibility and community.

The Third Way is not an attempt to split the difference between right and left. It is about traditional values in a changed world

Social justice must be founded on the equal worth of each individual, whatever their background, capability, creed or race. Talent and effort should be encouraged to flourish in all quarters, and governments must act decisively to end discrimination and prejudice. Awareness of discrimination is, rightly, being heightened over time. The attack on racial discrimination now commands general support, as does the value of a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society. A new awareness is growing of the capacity of, for example, disabled and elderly people, as they assert their own rights and dignity. The progressive left is on their side, recognising that despite two centuries of campaigning for democratic rights, we have a long way to go before people are recognised for their abilities.

The new constitution of the Labour Party commits us to seek the widest possible spread of wealth, power and opportunity. I want to highlight opportunity as a key value in the new politics. Its importance has too often been neglected or distorted. For the right, opportunity is characteristically presented as the freedom of individuals from the state. Yet for most people, opportunities are inseparable from society, in which government action necessarily plays a large part.

The left, by contrast, has in the past too readily downplayed its duty to promote a wide range of opportunities for individuals to advance themselves and their families. At worst, it has stifled opportunity in the name of abstract equality. Gross inequalities continue to be handed down from generation to generation, and the progressive left must robustly tackle the obstacles to true equality of opportunity. But the promotion of equal opportunities does not imply dull uniformity in welfare provision and public services. Nor does the modern left take a narrow view of opportunities: the arts and the creative industries should be part of our common culture.

In recent decades, responsibility and duty were the preserve of the right. They are no longer, and it was a mistake for them ever to become so, for they were powerful forces in the growth of the labour movement in Britain and beyond. For too long, the demand for rights from the state was separated from the duties of citizenship and the imperative for mutual responsibility on the part of individuals and institutions. Unemployment benefits were often paid without strong reciprocal obligations; children went unsupported by absent parents. This issue persists. Our responsibility to protect the environment, for instance, is increasingly pressing. So is the responsibility of parents for their children's education. The rights we enjoy reflect the duties we owe: rights and opportunity without responsibility are engines of selfishness and greed.

The life of any family and any community depends on accepting and discharging the formal and informal obligations we owe to each other. The politics of "us" rather than "me" demands an ethic of responsibility as well as rights. This is the foundation of social solidarity on which any successful society depends. Some marriages and relationships will not be for life. But people's need to be able to make commitments has not changed.

Human nature is cooperative as well as self-interested, and society could not function if it were otherwise. The grievous 20th century error of the fundamentalist left was the belief that the state could replace civil society and thereby advance freedom. The new right veers to the other extreme, advocating wholesale dismantling of core state activity in the cause of "freedom". The truth is that freedom for the many requires strong government. A key chal-



The old way: Herbert Morrison, left, and Clement Attlee used a landslide victory to nationalise industry and manage demand

lenge of progressive politics is to use the state as an enabling force, protecting effective communities and voluntary organisations and encouraging their growth to tackle new needs, in partnership as appropriate. These are the values of the Third Way. Without them, we are adrift. But in giving them practical effect, a large measure of pragmatism is essential. As I say continually, what matters is what works to give effect to our values.

Some commentators are disconcerted by this insistence on fixed values and goals but pragmatism about means. There are even claims that it is unprincipled. But I believe that a critical dimension of the Third Way is that policies flow from values, not vice versa. With the right policies, market mechanisms are critical to meeting social objectives, entrepreneurial zeal can promote social justice, and new technology represents an opportunity, not a threat.

Our values define our enemies. Cynicism and fatalism, prejudice and social exclusion: these are the enemies of talent and ambition, of aspiration and achievement. Cynicism, claiming that politics and public service cannot improve the quality of our lives. Fatalism that says global markets have wrested the economy beyond our influence. Prejudice, denying equal worth and encouraging snobbery and xenophobia. Social exclusion, limiting or denying opportunities on a scale unacceptable in a fair and open society.

What of policy? Our approach is "permanent revisionism", a continual search for better means to meet our goals, based on a clear view of

the changes taking place in advanced industrialised societies.

Over the past 50 years two major political projects have dominated politics in Britain and many other Western democracies – neo-liberalism and a highly statist brand of social democracy. They have been applied in different ways, according to history, culture and political choice, but the broad intellectual currents are clear. Britain has experienced both in full-blooded form. That is why the term "Third Way" has particular relevance, and it is on the basis of British experience since the watershed of the Second World War that I now draw.

The Labour government elected in 1945 was shaped by the legacy of wartime conditions and of pre-war depression and poverty. It proceeded, with a landslide majority and wide public consent, to nationalise industry, manage demand, direct economic activity and expand health and social services on an unprecedented scale.

These policies achieved steady and high growth, and a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. They fitted well with a world of secure jobs, large firms, low unemployment, relatively closed national economies and strong communities underpinned by stable families. Conservative governments of the Fifties made no attempt to dismantle the Attlee settlement, beyond sniping at the edges of the nationalised sector.

Yet as the Seventies advanced, post-war social democracy proved steadily less viable. The NHS and much of the welfare state remained – and remain – formidable achievements, at once cost-effective and

transformative in their impact on the quality of life for the less well-off. But demand management and very high levels of state ownership and direction became increasingly ineffective at promoting growth and containing unemployment in a world of growing competition, external shocks and industrial and technological change. Social democracy

The grievous error of the fundamentalist left was the belief that the state could replace civil society and thereby advance freedom

proved too inflexible in response. In particular, it was too inefficient and low quality in its provision of public services, notably those such as education, telecommunications and other utilities where it was the near-monopoly supplier.

The Sixties was a decade of personal liberation. But individualism was not taking hold of just the private sphere: it spread rapidly to the realm of political economy. By the early Eighties, neo-liberalism had taken deep root in the form of the Thatcher government. Some of its reforms were, in retrospect, necessary acts of modernisation, particularly the exposure of much of the state industrial sector to reform and competition. But it went hand-in-hand with a visceral antipathy to the remaining public sector, damaging key national services, notably

education and health, even as the ministers preached the language of national competitiveness and individual self-improvement.

By the mid-Nineties, the wheel had turned again – not back to a statist social democratic model, but towards a realisation that the dogmatism of the neo-liberal right had become a serious threat to national cohesion. Too many people were losing out; too many communities were under-performing; too many public services were failing through inattention; and too many communities were endangered by the rise of crime, unemployment and social exclusion.

And as the evidence mounted, the right proved increasingly obtuse in its failure to act – indeed, in its positive desire not to act in key areas such as education and social exclusion for fear of the ideological implications. Just as economic and social change were critical to sweeping the right to power, so they were critical to its undoing.

Around the world, governments are seeking to meet the demands of contemporary society. I believe that one of these demands is for a renewal of politics, for a new politics. But the choice of the new politics is already being made, in practice. In Britain, New Labour is the new politics. The challenge is to turn change into progress. We cannot rely on historical inevitability; we have to do it for ourselves.

This extract is taken from 'The Third Way: New Politics for the New Century' by Tony Blair, published by the Fabian Society today

THE INDEPENDENT

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PANDORA

LORD PARKINSON was in a genial mood last week at a charity dinner held at the Natural History Museum. As he and Lady Parkinson waited to go into the dinner – in aid of Action on Addiction – he began chatting to Pandora about politics. Commenting on Chris Patten, Parkinson said: "I don't think Chris is clear what his future is. He's had an amazing last 15 years. What's he going to do now – star in Lethal Weapon 5?" Not if it's produced by Rupert Murdoch's Twentieth Century Fox studio, he won't, Cecil.

PANDORA HAS learned that the Royal Court Theatre in Sloane Square may soon change its name to "The Royal Court and Jerwood Theatre". This would be in exchange for a donation of £3m to the English Stage Company – which occupies the Royal Court – from the esteemed Jerwood Foundation, which is already a financial supporter of the company. Established by the late John Jerwood, a wealthy cultured-pearl merchant and philanthropist, the Jerwood Foundation gives an annual prize of £150,000 in the field of education and the £30,000 Jerwood Painting Prize.

THE NOTION of football players who are on "hot" scoring streaks has been rubbishised by a psychologist writing in the latest issue of *New Scientist* magazine. "I analysed the goal scoring records of the top 12 goal scorers in the English Premier League for the 1994-95 and 1995-96 seasons to see if there was any sequential dependency in their runs of scoring. If a player has scored in his last few games does he have a better chance of scoring?" writes Peter Ayrton. "No. What about a player who has failed to score in his last few games – is he less likely to score next time? No. Any belief in the 'hot foot' also is a fallacy." Which seems to imply that Glenn Hoddle and other managers might do just as well selecting

their teams with the help of a roulette wheel.

THE LIBERAL Democrats (Lib Dem) are fast adopting the same kind of media sophistication that helped New Labour win the last election. Yesterday morning in Brighton, Paddy Ashdown first rescheduled a photo "opportunity" on the pier, then refused to pose on a jetty with the sea behind him. "No way. You must be joking. I can see the picture now, with the headline 'The End of the Pier Show'," the Lib Dem leader said. A more likely headline, given the Liberal Democrats policy on the House of Lords, would be "The End of the Peer Show".

PAUL MCCARTNEY is going on tour next year for the first time since 1993, in aid of animal-rights and vegetarian causes, according to *Billboard* magazine. Unlike his last stint on the road, he plans to take along other major recording artists. Possibles include Elvis Costello, Natalie Imbruglia, Blur, Lenny Kravitz and "the Artist".

One definite tour companion, according to *Billboard*, is singer Chrissie Hynde which, in Pandora's opinion, ensures the show will definitely be rocking.

LIZ HURLEY (pictured) may want to think twice the next time she's asked for a press interview. In the latest issue of *US* magazine *Detour*, she reveals a taste for dressing her boyfriends in her clothes. Apparently she's particularly fond of watching them stroll around in her high heels and earrings, but draws the line at her lingerie. Hurley has been living with Hugh Grant for more than a decade and Pandora wonders if her revelation might not inspire some Hollywood producer to cast the two in a remake of the classic film *Some Like It Hot* which starred Marilyn Monroe and Jack Lemmon.



Touching the seat of power



JOHN WALSH

Are we getting a little too keen on fame - why should anyone want to sit on a chair once sat on by Gordon Brown?

SO WHERE did you spend "Open Day" last weekend? I can't remember when they started throwing public buildings open to public inspection, but it seems to me a patronising gesture. (What an open society we have become, indeed, when these mystifying thrones of power and majesty can be vouchsafed to our goggling, plebeian eyes!) It's sometimes hard to see the attraction. Last time I tried an open day I checked out the Bankside Tate, the former power station that's soon to become an art gallery along the lines of the Musée d'Orsay. We queued for an hour in the rain, signed a book and then shuffled forwards indoors for another hour before being led up some stairs by torchlight, along a gallery and out onto a roof where they let you peek through a broken window at the vista of chains, concrete pillars and the vast, industrial Nagasaki of the interior. As cultural insights go, it was right up there with inspecting a hole in the road.

On Saturday you could have chosen an open day at the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. No, really - for no admission fee, you could nip round to Whitehall, travel up in a glass elevator and see the office where Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture etc., parks his worsted-clad bottom. The very chair from which he regards the paintings by Howard Hodgkin and Craigie Aitchison are the bonuses of the chieftain, modern arts commissar. Sadly, I couldn't make it. A seasonal flurry of children's parties from Lewisham to Wandsworth prevented me from feasting my eyes on this Treasury-of-Tutankhamen sight. Instead, I fell to wondering: why on earth should anyone want to see Chris Smith's office chair? And are we getting a little too keen on the mythologising of fame?

It starts off as de-mythologising. These auctions of rock star memorabilia at Sotheby's and Christie's are all about ordinariness. We are buying familiarity - with Ginger Spice's dress, which is suddenly ours, or Elton John's jacket, which we can pose in, or Jimi Hendrix's tenth-favourite guitar, on which we can bend notes and try the chords to Voodoo Chile. But below a certain level of idiosyncrasy - the process goes into reverse. You're no longer paying to make the stars come down to earth; instead you're investing the most trivial quotidian things with magic. Suddenly you're bidding £20 for a handkerchief into which Cilla Black once blew her nose, and trying to persuade yourself it's more than a slightly soiled square of cotton. You're queuing up to sit on a ministerial chair once sat on by Gordon Brown.

I'm sure Mr Smith's office is charming. I understand it's a duet of beige and green



Lawrence Feeszy, aged nine, enjoys the trappings of power as he sits in the Chancellor's chair during Open Day at the Treasury. Below, Marc Bolan Keith Dobney

sofas and chairs with a coffee table, a TV for those unmissable high-culture moments, and several pictures. Delightful. But I cannot fathom what the general public is likely to learn about Mr Smith.

We may infer things about his taste from the pictures on the wall, but you know they're there to symbolise the high office he represents. They all come from the government art collection, a pick 'n' mix selection of modern art. Anything that genuinely told you anything about Chris the chap, as opposed to the minister, would have been booted out of sight long ago: the scribbled Post-It notes, the new issues of *Bizarre* and *Attitude*; the empty carton of Prêt à Manger pasta salad; the inter-departmental memos with scribbled afterthoughts; the proudly displayed photos of Chris with famous friends; Chris backstage and awestruck with favourite singing stars...

It's never too early to start practising for the time when the gasping world will want a piece of your wardrobe or a sample of your handwriting. So next week I'll be throwing open to the world the shed in which I write these words. Admission free. Step right up. Come and marvel at this desk, crammed with newspapers, toothpicks, elastic bands, and threatening letters from Access. Check out the slowly expiring rubber plant, the attractive stains on the rug (small daughter/Ribena interface), the dead wasp suspended in a cobweb over the window.



Recoil in amazement from the Jiffy Bag mountain, the rubbish bin overflow of empty Famous Grouse bottles.... Listen to the barborhythmic grumbings of the mini-fridge. Note the sad pin-up photo of Diana Rigg in stretchy zip-front leathers, circa 1968. There now. I'll even throw in some used hankies to take with you when you leave.

AT TWO o'clock this afternoon, the final balloon will go up on poor Mr Clinton. The deleted "raw testimony" of Ms Lewinsky will be revealed to a world already drunk

on the rude minutiae of what a powerful man can get up to in stolen moments with a willing staff groupie when he thinks nobody is looking and nobody will ever find out. (But what more can there be, after the telephone sex, plaster frogs, pizza slices, cigars and macadamia nuts? What further furtive indignities can have been visited on the hindquarters of the lovely Monica? Even devoted readers of the *Kama Sutra* and *The Perfumed Garden* must be racking their brains. Something involving small, furry, woodland creatures? Some unspeakable liberty with a baseball glove? Don't tell me he got out the presidential saxophone one afternoon and played the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" while Ms Lewinsky clambered onto the other end and...)

Enough, enough. If God, as Vladimir Nabokov once observed, is in the details, it is the details that will finally sink Mr Clinton. Had he simply gone to bed with the wretched woman and, in the parlance of the locker room, simply given her one - a procedure which did Kennedy, Johnson, Jefferson - and countless other previous American presidents no great harm - it would have caused him less trouble. But it's the not-quite-having-sex: the endless foreplay upon which the world is now fixated, and from which he will never be able to dissociate himself. They're now part of a vast global giggle, a lexicon of innuendo as childish but as all-pervading as the *Carry On* movies. And so we will have the promised spectacle of "the angry Bill Clinton, the

trapped Bill Clinton" on newly-public video, twisting and turning as he tried, on 17 August, to evade Kenneth Starr's remorseless questioning. It lends a certain piquancy to historical memories of the former, grandly charming, world-leading, what-a-thrill-to-meet-you Clinton that preceded this nasty witch-hunt.

Take, for instance, the time he met our very own Royal Ballet a couple of years ago, as recorded in the pages of Darcey Bussell's *Life in Dance*, published next month. The company was touring in Washington, and the Clintons brought their daughter Chelsea to the opening night of *Sleeping Beauty*. The royal ballerinas now remember how Clinton paused before the most buxom member of the corps de ballet, gazed down at her cavernous décolletage and asked, "What is this, ah, costume?" ("They're called tits, Mr President").

In Ms Bussell's book, the Prez "seemed very, very big, and good-looking" and she recalls how he paused beside the dancer, Fiona Chadwick, who played the Lilac Fairy. Learning the nature of her role, Clinton said: "Ah could do with a Lilac Fairy at the White House - to put everything right." And, according to Ms Bussell, Fiona replied: "I'll come round any time, with my magic wand."

Whew. No wonder he thought he could get away with it. What passes for flirting among the rest of us must sound like the promise of a Dead Cert to a "very, very big and good-looking" leader of the free world.

RIGHT OF REPLY

IGNATIUS NAKISHERO

The General Manager of the Uganda Tourist Board responds to a travel article on his country

WE HAVE a bone to pick with you, actually a whole plateful. In your travel writer Chris Wainman's peevish report of his holiday in Uganda, he is wrong to refer to speak of President Museveni's wish to encourage "large-scale tourism". In fact the aim of the exercise is that Uganda does not want, and is not planning for, large-scale tourism. That is the whole bloody point!

Mr Wainman says that the driver of the four-wheel-drive vehicle that took him on a game drive through the Murchison Falls National Park "narrowly missed the only living cheetah in a 50-mile radius". In fact, there are no cheetahs anywhere near the park, and there never have been any, ever.

Continuing with his litany of complaints, your correspondent claims that he found the Paraa Lodge in Murchison Falls National Park, into which he had been booked, was home to 80 baboons - did he count them? He will be happy to hear that the inn was fully renovated a year ago and is now recognised by all who visit it as the prime lodge property in Uganda.

One should point out that the current price of the "mud hut" that your man stayed in is the equivalent of £10 per night - is that really the price of a B&B in England? Finally, and most importantly, nowhere does he describe what is in the park - the Nile River, for example.

The rest of the article shows such a lack of dignity and respect for our culture and our people as to leave us utterly without words.

We can only say how disappointed we are that a first-world broadsheet newspaper feels it has to do a hatchet job, not only on our country but also on a fragile indigenous tourist industry that is making genuine steps to create an authentic and sustainable tourist product.

Selling the rebellious soul

MONDAY BOOK

COMMODIFY YOUR DISSIDENT: SALVOS FROM 'THE BAFILER'

EDITED BY THOMAS FRANK AND MATT WEILAND, W W NORTON, £10.95



of banality was Chumbawumba's "Tub-Thumping", a call to political activism by Leeds anarchists, here used as a boisterous soundtrack to images of bruised children.

The Chicago cynics who edit *The Baffler*, and who have put together a compilation from this most aggressive of American small magazines, would simply snort and shake their heads. What do you expect the Culture Trust to do? Listen to the lyrics? Yet the "commodification of dissent" they talk about goes beyond indifference to what radical artists say or do - so long as they can be used as muzak or wallpaper.

No, what the Bafflers are targeting is one of the most powerful motors of neo-capitalism. Preaching revolution has become a cultural norm, rather than an exception. Once people believe a product is "hip", they'll buy anything.

So we should wear this season's Gap khakis because Hemingway, Dean and Ginsberg wore them. We should punch away at an Apple Mac, rather than a personal computer, because the former allows us to "Think Different" - just like Gandhi, Miles Davis and Picasso? A pair of sweatshop-fashioned trainers can turn sportsmen into moody existentialists, drifting through a surreal landscape, rather than cash-greedy mercenaries twitching for their next totty.

From a largely mid-1990s perch, the Bafflers also pour scorn on such fads as Generation X, the New Beats, the MTV Generation - all marketing phenomena that reached out to the marginal and the dissident, killed them through stylising them, and then sold the pallid remains. So it comes as no surprise that most of the writers here are unregenerate old punks. They reserve their bitterest contempt for alternative artists-turned-lifestyle products - such as Henry Rollins, Pearl Jam or Marilyn Manson - and their corporately-promoted weirdness.

Strip away the well-wrought disdain of their prose, and you have something of a marketplace

work for less pay a "productivity miracle". But that's the problem with the Baffler world. Most of us don't operate at their level: ruthless semi-antics on the one hand, steely revolutionaries on the other. That we don't leads their editor to close with a despair worthy of the Frankfurt School pessimists of the 1940s: "no myth but the business myth... no rebellion but the pre-programmed search for new kicks".

But could it be that capitalist culture is much more of a battleground than a vast and fiendish manipulation? When does the hip consumer become the ethical consumer, for example? And does snickering at "change-managers" really help us understand why business culture engages hearts and minds? The Bafflers are the punks who like to say "No", when the issue is surely why we say "Yes" to cultural capitalism in a million different ways.

The presenter on *You've Been Framed* quipped at the end of that satirical segment: "I really love that song". So do we all. But if you want to explore the complexity of how an anarchist chant can go prime-time - rather than just piddle elegantly over the sell-out - then don't come here. They're baffled more than they know.

PAT KANE

They are alive to the bullshit that calls more



Henry Rollins, selling anarchy by the pound

MONDAY POEM

THOUGHTS OF A PAKISTANI WOMAN IN AN ENGLISH JAIL
BY MONIZA ALVI

It's true, I'm happier than before.
Here, for the first time I know I'm me,
not this man's daughter, that man's wife.

My crime? I had no choice.
This wasn't understood.

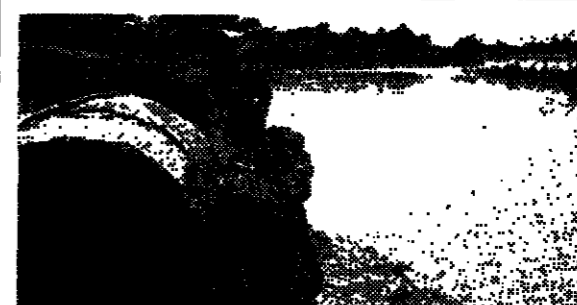
My own thoughts
swoop like birds around my cell,
almost slipping through the bars.

Thankfully, they are not
Asian birds, or English birds.
At night I count each brilliant feather.

This feather is my will.
That feather is my right.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from *'The Lyrics'*, a series currently being broadcast by the BBC World Service on Sundays at 6pm, on 648MW

BANGLADESH Flood Disaster



This is Ayesha Begum, she is 10 years old. She is one of 30 million people whose lives have been shattered by the floods which have devastated Bangladesh in recent weeks.

She stands beside the water which has washed away her home and now covers her family's farmland. They have nothing left. Countless numbers are gathering in makeshift camps. Disease is rife. Food is short. People are dying.

Children weakened by disease and malnutrition will not survive unless they receive food, clean water and medicine. And unless families are able to replace their ruined crops, they face the prospect of starvation.

They urgently need your help. Just £25 will provide basic survival items and enough food to keep one person alive for a month. Please give whatever you can, today.

Donation Line 0990 22 22 33 (24 hours)

Yes, I want to help families survive in Bangladesh

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Complete coupon and return to:

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Patricia Hayes

"LADIES AND Gentlemen," announced that Victorian master of ceremonies of the Players' Theatre, Mr Leonard Sachs, "Please welcome that Minor Miracle of Melodiousness - Master Pat Hayes!" Enter a four-foot-something urchin dressed in a white sailor suit and floppy hat to match, to sing in a penetratingly shrill voice "Kiss Me Mother 'Ere I Die".

He was a sensation and one member of the audience, a certain Mr J.B. Priestley, went round the back to see him and say so. To his great surprise Master Pat Hayes turned out to be Miss Patricia Hayes, 20 years old and something of a "short house", to use the polite show-business term of that pre-war period. Impressed, the great playwright promptly cast her in his latest play, *When We Are Married* (1938). It was the young actress's first West End appearance, and she played the role of the scurrying little servant Ruby Birtle. It was the beginning of a career in comedy unique in that it would span stage, screen, radio and television for half a century.

Patricia Hayes was born in Camberwell, London, in 1909 of Irish parents. Her father was a civil servant, and somewhat surprisingly encouraged his daughter in a show-business career by enrolling her in a local dancing and elocution class in Streatham at the age of five. She was 12 when she made her first stage appearance in an entertainment entitled *The Great Big World* (1921) at the Court Theatre in London. Five years later she and her brother Brian Hayes were both featured in a Grand Matinée Concert at the Imperial Theatre, Canning Town.

More than just a talented child, she studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, where she won the Bancroft Gold Medal in 1928. Her judges were Sir Gerald Du Maurier, Frank Cellier and Dame Edith Evans. Now a professional, and seemingly un-handicapped by her small stature, she entered repertory at Oxford and followed with a two-year contract with Jevan Brandon-Thomas's touring company, taking her to such far-apart venues as Edinburgh and Stratford-upon-Avon. She made her first radio broad-

cast as a child during the early years of the BBC, but it was not for some time before she became a regular at the microphone. This was with *Children's Hour*, the popular pre-war nightly series which ran between five and six o'clock throughout the week. She first came to fame as one of the Bones brothers, two schoolboy detectives in the series *Norman and Henry Bones* (1943).

The young sons of the Reverend George Bones, created by a former schoolmaster called Anthony Wilson, neither Norman nor Henry was

As Tony Hancock's awful home help-cum-charlady Mrs Cravatte, Hayes almost eclipsed the 'lad himself'

played by a boy, Charles Hawtrey, not yet the "Carry On" cad, played Norman and Patricia Hayes, her name shortened to the more masculine Pat, played Henry. Thus did the producer "Uncle Mac" avoid confusing his young listeners.

She made her main career radio for some years, popping up, usually as Pat, in everything from Shakespeare to experimental dramas on the Third Programme. On radio of course, her height was no problem. One day the staff Light Entertainment producer Pat Dixon telephoned her to suggest she might do well in radio comedy. Always ready to have a go, she provided the raucous voice of a switchback show-woman shouting "Hup and Dahn! Hup and Dahn!" at the opening of *Hoop-La* (1944), a series set in a fair-ground starring Robb Wilton, the "Day War Broke Out" comedian, Max Wall who made a national catchphrase of "Lashings of toast simply ooo-zing with butter!", and the *ITMA* star Jack Train as



Hayes, left, with Warren Mitchell (Alf Garnett) and Dandy Nichols (Mrs Garnett) in *Till Death Us Do Part*

"Cheapjack Train from Petticoat Lane".

Much the same continued in *Our Shed* (1946), which was billed as starring "Max Wall and his trained troupe of performing zombies". It was from 1949 that her big break-through began when she was cast as a comedy character support in Ted Ray's series *Ray's a Laugh*. In a six-year run her roles included Ray's secretary Gertrude Dobbs and his cleaning lady Mrs Chatsworth. "At the time my marriage had broken down and I had three children to bring up," she recalled later. "During the years I worked with Ted I was never out of the house for more than half a day a week." The several repeat fees helped, of course.

Her special talent for impersonating young boys continued through the Fifties. She played Ginger, the schoolboy side-kick in Richard Crompton's *Just William* (1952), her radio connection continuing. (Sad boy William Brown was played by Ted Ray's young son Andrew.)

Then she crossed over to Radio Luxembourg and starred as "Master O.K. the Sassy Boy" in *What Sauce*, a sponsored series produced by Philip Jones, not yet the head of entertainment at Thames Television.

Her relationship with perhaps the greatest comedian British radio ever produced, Tony Hancock, began in 1958. She had a small part in "The Prize Money", in which Hancock won a television quiz and Sid James plotted to win the money from Hancock. She was so good it led to a regular character's being devised for her: this was the awful Mrs Cravatte, a sort of home help-cum-charlady who would pop up in the plots from time to time and who duly transferred to television in even more awfulness. She is the harridan who attempts to "draw off" Hancock's infection in the episode called "The Cold" (1960). She truly came into her own, almost eclipsing the "lad himself", in a series of a dozen one-minute commercials made by the Egg Marketing Board - slogan

"Go to work on an egg". Also plugged was the then famous "Little Lion" (1965).

She became something of a regular on television, popping up in *The Arthur Haynes Show* (1956), *The Arthur Askey Show* (1961) and *The World of Beachcomber* (1968), a visual version of J.B. Martin's column in the *Daily Express*. It was in 1975 that she was cast as a regular member of Johnny Speight's *Till Death Us Do Part*. With Dandy Nichols absent through illness, Hayes and Alfie Bass played the dreadful neighbours who were supposed to look after the even more dreadful Alf Garnett (Warren Mitchell). And when ATV took the series over in 1981, moving the venue from the East End to Eastbourne, she played the part of Min, another neighbour.

In 1983 Speight created a new series especially for her in partnership with Pat Coombs. Side by side they looked like a witty reincarnation of the famous variety act "The Long and Short of It", Ethel Revenell and

Gracie West, as they played two poverty-stricken bag ladies.

But the highest point of Hayes's long career was not in fact for comedy. She starred in a BBC television "Play for Today" written by Jeremy Sandford and produced by the great Ted Kotcheff. This was *Edna the Hebridean Woman*, and for her brilliant performance as the old boozier Patricia Hayes won both the Society of Film and Television Arts Award and the Sun Newspaper Award for Best Actress of the Year, 1971.

Patricia Hayes's family are all in show-business. Her son, Richard O'Callaghan, is a popular actor on television, her daughter Teresa Jennings is an opera singer, and her second daughter Gemma Brooks is an actress.

DENIS GIFFORD

Patricia Hayes, actress: born London 22 December 1909; OBE 1987; married 1939 Valentine Rook (one son, two daughters); died London 19 September 1998.

Kurt Hager

KURT HAGER became somewhat notorious when he rejected the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reform course for East Germany (DDR) in April 1987. He told the West German weekly *Stern*, "If your neighbour changes his wallpaper in his flat, would you feel obliged to do the same?"

Hager recalled the first post-war programme of the Communists, which stressed the importance of differing national roads to Socialism. He conveniently forgot that this policy was later denounced as a "colossal blunder" and that, up to Gorbachev, he and his colleagues in the ruling Politburo were fervent followers of the Soviet line.

Born in Bietigheim, western Germany, the son of a waiter, Hager had a grammar-school education and achieved his Abitur, the university entrance certificate. He joined the Communist youth organisation KJVD in 1929 and the Communist Party (KPD) in 1930. He worked as a journalist before his arrest in 1933 after the Nazi seizure of power. After spending several months in Heuberg Concentration Camp, he engaged in anti-Nazi activity before leaving for Switzerland in 1938.

From there he made his way to Paris, then a hub of anti-Nazi activity. He was sent to Spain as director of the German service of Radio Madrid. He remained there until the fall of the Republic to Franco's forces in 1939. After being briefly detained in France, like so many other supporters of the Spanish Republic, he managed to gain entry into Britain. Hager immediately threw himself into Communist activities in his new sanctuary and served as political secretary of the exile KPD organisation in Britain. He was also prominent in other Communist front organisations.

When Churchill, fearing spies among "enemy aliens" gave the order "to collar the lot" in 1940, Hager was interned. British trade unionist and left-wingers soon gained his release. He was then assigned to forestry work and worked later as a welder carrying on his KPD activities as best he could.

In 1946 Hager was repatriated to Germany where he lost no time in continuing his KPD career, helping in the forcible merger of the Social Democrats with the Communists to form the SED. He worked as deputy editor of *Vorwärts* in 1946-48, and from 1949 as head of the department for party education and propaganda. From 1952 he headed the department responsible for science and universities having been appointed professor of philosophy at the Humboldt University, East Berlin, in 1949.

Writing for party publications such as *Einheit*, Hager had the difficult job of explaining that the Soviet Zone/DDR was not a Leninist dictatorship despite all the evidence to the contrary. His rise under Walter Ulbricht, the SED leader until 1971, was swift. He was "elected" to full membership of the Central Committee (ZK) of the SED in 1954 after serving as a candidate from 1950. In 1955 he was appointed a Secretary of the ZK responsible for science, education and culture. After being promoted to candidate membership of the Politburo in 1959 he was "elected" to full membership in 1963. He also headed the Politburo's ideological commission.

Thus Hager wielded enormous power over every aspect of the cultural life of the DDR. He could prevent writers being published, could arrange for good or hostile reviews to appear denouncing works by particular writers, artists or directors. He could prevent artists or academics going abroad. He had final say over university appointments and much more. His main rival for power in these areas was General Erich Mielke, head of State Security.

Hager also served as a member of the DDR's rubber-stamp parliament from 1958 chairing its committee responsible for schools, and from 1976 as a member of the Council of State, in theory the DDR's collective head of state. Hager joined his colleagues in forcing Ulbricht to resign in 1971. Although he took part in the palace coup against Honecker on 17 October 1989, he did at least praise the achievements of his leader. He was to fall himself a few weeks later. He and four others were expelled from the Politburo and forced to surrender all their positions. His expulsion from the SED followed in January 1990.

Hager then lived as a pensioner. After German re-unification he was charged, along with other former Politburo members, with responsibility for the deaths on the Berlin Wall and East-West German frontiers. He was able to avoid the verdict of the courts due to his poor health. He was said to be suffering from cancer.

DAVID CHILDS

Kurt Hager, politician: born Bietigheim, Germany 24 July 1912; married (two children); died Berlin 18 September 1998.

Ryuichi Tamura

IN JAPAN, poets usually join a group of like-minded beings, simply in order to help each other to become better poets. They also usually publish their own magazine, and such groups are called *coterie*s - as always in Japan, a foreign word or name is supposed to lend a touch of class, or even of mystery and defiance of traditional Japanese ideas.

Unlike the very dissimulated British poetry groups of the war and post-war era (the Apocalypses, the Beats, the Angry Young Men), the Japanese groups were not self-publishing and self-serving ego-burnishers: they were devoted to the cause of poetry alone, and to the acquisition of knowledge about contemporary Western developments in the art, from which they had long been cut off by censorship and lack of contact with their Western brothers.

Members of the groups paid a membership fee, which gave them entry into the group's magazine. Otherwise it was difficult for a young, unknown poet to get his name and work published anywhere. They also printed small collections of poetry, paid for by the poets themselves, and this was never considered dishonourable, as it is in the West.

The most influential coterie post-war called itself *Arechi* ("The Waste

Land"), in tribute to what was then considered a masterpiece by TS. Eliot, but that most Japanese poets had not read, or if they had, could not understand. However, the first thing that struck them was the typographical layout of the work, with its varieties of verse forms and its dialogue, its contemporary imagery and references to European culture, particularly art, which some of the Japanese poets had experienced at first hand before the war.

Among the leading members of *Arechi* were Nobuo Ayukawa, Toyochiro Miyoshi, Saburo Kuroda, Masao Nakagiri, Taro Kitamura, Koichi Kihara - and Ryuichi Tamura. Though their magazine's name was a tribute to Eliot, the heavy hand of existentialism had already reached Japan through the works of Sartre and Camus. In the epoch-making "Dedication to X" (*X e no Kenji*) which appeared at the beginning of the first *Arechi* anthology in 1951, there was this declaration of intent:

The escape from destruction, the protest against ruin are our will to rebel against our own fate and are also testimony to our existence. If there is to be a future for us and for you, it depends on our not despairing of our present life.

In the following year a much older and already famous poet, Jun-

zaburo Nishiwaki, born in 1894, who had spent several years in London before the war at a time when *The Waste Land* was first published, translated the whole of Eliot's poem into Japanese - a considerable feat. His own poetry was to be permanently scarred by that encounter.

The phenomenon of the coterie in Japan can be attributed to the atavistic Japanese desire to "be long", which led them in literature to attach inflated importance to Western groupuscules like the Movement, motivated only by its members' rigorous exclusion of all those who wrote about "abroad" and therefore could have no place in that elitist mutual-admiration society.

In Japan, only Nishiwaki resisted that larval impulse. (When he was head of the library in the Tokyo university where I was teaching in the Sixties, he once asked me: "To what movement do you belong?" I replied, "To none. I am my own movement, a movement all on my own." He gave a delighted cry: "Me too! Me too!")

The *Arechi* group of poets were all much younger than Nishiwaki, in their twenties mostly, and they had suffered hardship in the war under military rule. But now all the traditional authority in Japan had become a thing of the past, a past which the

poets rejected in disgust. The first issue of their magazine had appeared in 1939, but the war and harsh censorship of foreign "degenerate" art and influences prevented it from re-appearing until September 1947, after which it struggled to appear mainly in the form of anthologies. The poets were all dedicated individualist thinkers and artists, and became the most celebrated of the post-war era.

Ryuichi Tamura was born in 1923 in Otsuka, Tokyo. He graduated from the Third Tokyo Commercial School in 1940 and from an arts course at Meiji University in 1943. At the end of that year he was conscripted into the Yokosuka Second Naval Barracks and served as an instructor with the Naval Flying Corps. At the end of the war he worked for three years as head of the editorial department of the publishers Hayakawa Shobo. Then he turned to teaching, the fate of many contemporary poets, and was lecturer at Tokyo Metropolitan University.

His career as a poet had started well before the war, in his teens, when, with his fellow student Taro Kitamura, he contributed to the coterie magazine *Shin-ryodo* ("New Territory"), a title in homage to Michael Roberts's anthology of con-

temporary English poetry *New Country*. Assisted by Kitamura he became a leading member of the *Arechi* group in the early post-war period.

Later, he joined Shimpel Kusano's *Reketei* ("The Course of History"). Much of Tamura's earlier poetry, however, was published in *Arechi*. His first individual volume, *Yansen no Hi to Yoru* ("Four Thousand Days and Nights"), appeared in 1956, followed in 1963 by *Kotoba no nai Sekai* ("World Without Words"), which shared the 1963 Takamura Kotaro Prize, and *Midori no Shiso* ("Green Thoughts") in 1967.

Tamura was also an insightful and sympathetic critic of his fellow poets, and produced a volume of critical essays, *Wakui Arechi* ("Young Wasteland"), in 1968 that is still valuable as a source book for information about poets of that period. He also made a number of translations of English and American literature, and one of his later works, *Shinnen no tegami* ("New Year Letter"), influenced by Auden's work of the same name, appeared in 1973.

Tamura's poetry has a note of slight hysteria, always on the edge of crisis, but touched with redeeming satirical humour. He uses paradox, innovative metaphors, and sharp, fresh imagery in a kaleido-

scopic whirl of sensation, yet always with a deeply poetic sensibility. A good example of his style can be found in the poem "Emperor" - just to use that revered word as the title of a poem was something of a challenge in conservative Japan. It appears in my anthology of contemporary Japanese poetry, *Burning Giraffes*.

EMPEROR

There are eyes in the stone, the eyes closed in grief and fatigue. The man in black passes my door - You, the Emperor of Winter, my lonely Emperor, walking to your own grave in Europe, your white forehead shadowed by civilisation, your back to the sun.

Your self-punishment is so painful, Flowers! You stretch out your hands to them. But universal winter has set in after the era of reason and progress. European beauties are nothing but fantasies.

Who will kiss your hands whose fated palms are dark and dry and barren?

Flowers! Those scars are flowers.

JAMES KIRKUP

Ryuichi Tamura, poet and critic: born Tokyo 18 March 1923; died Tokyo 26 August 1998.

Michael Montgomery

MICHAEL MONTGOMERY was remarkable for a versatility which embraced international broadcasting and the law.

As Deputy Head of the BBC Czech Service, he played a vital role in shaping BBC programmes to Czechoslovakia in the 1968 Prague Spring and his dazzling linguistic skills stood out even in the highly experienced, polyglot community which inhabited Bush House in those days. Under the guidance of Hugh Langh, who had interpreted for Churchill at Yalta, Montgomery brought fresh energy and journalistic enterprise to the Czechoslovak section of the BBC External Services in the run-up to, and the immediate aftermath of, the aborted Dubcek revolution.

Although by no means a dedicated ideologue, he well understood the realities of Eastern European

Communism and Soviet foreign policy. But he also impressed colleagues by his swift response to events with a strong human interest element like the *Torrey Canyon* fiasco.

Born in Liverpool in 1941, the son of Robert Montgomery, a barrister on the North West Circuit, Michael Montgomery was educated locally at Holt School and went on to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he read modern languages, starting out in orthodox fashion on French and German, later switching to German and Polish.

Montgomery liked a challenge and legend has it that he dropped into a Cambridge bookshop one day, searching for a language to study in his spare time which would really intrigue him. He emerged determined to master Czech, which of course he soon did. Having already

picked up Spanish at school, it was perhaps inevitable then that he should gravitate to foreign broadcasting. He joined the BBC in 1962.

After his big success with the Czechoslovaks, he turned his attention in the late Sixties to Latin America and Brazil. Learning Portuguese gave him no problems: he rapidly devoured the basic "Teach Yourself" book. But he ran into managerial difficulties, far from all of his own making, in his new post and quickly moved on to take charge of the Central Book Unit in Bush House which supplied scripts to all the various language sections. He accomplished this task with characteristic elegance, humour and efficiency, unawed by the reputation of either reviewer or reviewed.

However, sensing that his promotion prospects had been diminished,

Montgomery studied for the Bar examinations in the evenings and at weekends. He took an early interest in the then relatively obscure subject of European Community law and found great fun and relaxation in weekly lunches with a small group of friends in the Gay Hussar before it became overwhelmingly fashionable. There was a strong sense, especially among younger members of the staff, that the BBC had lost a most valuable talent when in 1972 he decided to move on.

LESLIE STONE

Called to the Bar in 1972, Michael Montgomery established a practice on the Northern Circuit based in chambers in Liverpool, writes Christopher Blake. In the late 1980s his work was moving towards a specialisation in the prosecution

of fraud cases. Not surprisingly in such circumstances the establishment of the Serious Fraud Office attracted his interest and he joined that office on its creation in 1988.

Independent in thought and action, he returned to the Bar in 1990. Continuing to practise principally in the area of serious fraud prosecution, he was appointed standing counsel to the Department of Trade and Industry in 1991. He combined his practice with an editorial role with the periodical *European Law*.

In recent years his experience and judgement had been employed in serving as a Chairman of Social Security Tribunals and as a senior Immigration Adjudicator.

A man of considerable intellectual capacity, he was however always approachable and ready to help and encourage others who couldn't match



his abilities. This, combined with a sharp waspish wit and his humour, made him exceptional company.

Robert Michael Montgomery, broadcaster and barrister: born Liverpool 2 March 1941; married 1963 Anne Hurrell (three sons, two daughters); died Arrose Park, Merseyside 6 September 1998.

Four hands are better than two

A FAMILY AFFAIR

AESTHETIC SURGEONS THE VIEL TWINS EXPLAIN WHY LIVING AND OPERATING ALONGSIDE ONE ANOTHER GIVES THEM THE CUTTING EDGE

Doctors Maurizio and Roberto Viel, both 38, established the London Centre for Aesthetic Surgery eight years ago. Born in Rome, they studied medicine in Milan. Maurizio and Roberto are both married and live in the same block of flats in central London. As twins they share every aspect of their work, even operating on patients together.

Roberto Maurizio and I went to the same medical school. At the time we didn't know that the other one wanted to go into medicine – it was an independent decision. Then we discovered how useful it was to exchange ideas, to discuss things and clarify certain subjects in our mind.

After six years at medical school we found that we had exactly the same interests; so we both went on to study plastic surgery at another hospital. We agreed that plastic surgery gave us some kind of freedom; it was an area where we could deal with improving looks but still stay within a medical field.

I've always been interested in the bond between looks and psychology; the importance of looks for self-esteem and how this affects the patient's relationship towards the world.

After studying we decided to put our strengths together and capitalise on them and so we opened our practice. Often we do operations together which works well, because we have the same training and the same skills. When a patient is on the table, the most important thing she can entrust us with is her body. During the operation we know innately what the other is doing. We just have to look at each other and it's done – if I worked with someone else I wouldn't know their habits. Because we know exactly what the other can do, it cuts the time spent in operating theatre.

Also we can swap ideas and opinions about the case we're operating on. We work as one. It's not the same as working with a friend – you only know a friend to a certain extent whereas we've been together since before we were born. I know I can trust my brother 100 per cent. The patient is also happier knowing there are two surgeons looking after them.

I'm not sure that we're telepathic but certainly when I was younger and we were apart from each other, I could tell if my brother was ill or had a problem. I could feel it. Now we're married we do have our own lives and different friends. Because we work together, we both realise it's important to keep some space.

I got married three years ago and then three months later my brother followed suit. Our wives do have an understanding that twins are much closer than other brothers and sisters.

To find the right partner in this business must be the most difficult thing to do because you have to have the same judge-

ment about things; the same concept of beauty. We both realise that every patient is different from another and we both agree that perfection is impossible. But we try to find the right balance, keeping in mind that nature is the real surgeon. Our attitude is that we can improve and rejuvenate but we can never perform miracles.

Maurizio

By the time we'd finished studying, working together seemed like a natural thing to do. It may sound different to people but operating together is, for me, very reassuring; knowing that my brother is next to me and that I'm not alone. I have more strength when he's with me; I feel we are in a more powerful position – that we can share something immediately.

We do facelifts together, liposuction and breast surgery. If there's two of you in that situation, you're more effective – it's like working with four hands rather than two. Liposuction can take a long time – we can work side by side and take less time. We also know exactly how the other person works; we have the same aesthetic sense. We'll judge with four eyes the reshaping of a body.

The psychological side interests me a lot – it's always important to listen to the patient. We're here to try and make people feel better about themselves. We can give back confidence and self-esteem – that's a new side of medicine that's only been around for the last 50 or 60 years.

For Italians, how you look is more a way of everyday life. My mother was an opera singer and always cared about her looks and she always wanted me and Roberto to look perfect. I think that definitely influenced our choice of profession.

Roberto recently did my nose for me – I had quite a large nose and now it looks more like his. My brother's also given me injections to reduce the vertical lines between my eyebrows.

I'd say that my brother is the serious side of the practice while I'm more relaxed. He follows the rules more rigidly whereas I find some exceptions to those rules. I feel that both our wives have had to understand that being twins is more than being simply brothers.

In work we're never jealous of one another although there is a positive sibling competitiveness between us. There's a critical moment in adolescence when you compare yourself to your twin brother and don't like something about him – and you fear that you're the same. When I was a teenager I used to compare myself to Roberto but not anymore – you have to realise that you're not the same. That's why a lot of twins don't work together – they want to protect their own sense of identity.

As long as you realise you are different and you retain your own individuality, then you can have the most beautiful corporation between the two of you.

INTERVIEWS BY EMMA COOK



The Viel twins: 'During an operation we know innately what the other is doing. We just have to look at each other and it's done'

Neville Elder

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<p>Application for a Special Hours Certificate under Section 77 of the Licensing Act 1964</p> <p>TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN</p> <p>We, Sidak Kumar Arora, now residing at 405 High Road, London E11 and having for six months last past resided The Balfour Estate, 275 Lea Bridge Road, London E10 and Kenneth Ameh-Ofori, having for the six months last past resided at the above address, do hereby apply to the Licensing Justices of the London Division for a Special Hours Certificate under Section 77 of the Licensing Act 1964 for the premises situated at 405 High Road, London E11 and known by the sign of the Country Arms.</p> <p>AND FURTHER DO hereby declare that such Certificate is granted, Section 76 of the said Act will apply to the premises from 7th October 1998.</p> <p>ANY PERSON intending to oppose the application shall give notice in writing of his intention to the applicant and to the Clerk to the Licensing Justices specifying in general terms the grounds of his opposition not later than seven days before the commencement of the above sessions.</p> <p>Dated 16th day of September 1998</p> <p>JAMES-MOTON, 241/3 Fenton Rd, London N1 9AG Tel: 0771 278 1834 Fax: 0771 278 1126 (Authorised Agents for the Applicants)</p>	<p>NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES</p> <p>LICENSING ACT 1964</p> <p>COURT: The Court House, Speerswell Street, Oxford</p> <p>HEARING: 10.30 AM, Tuesday 22nd September 1998</p> <p>PREMISES: RBS, 20-24 Queens Square, 101 Ebb Street, Oxford OX1 1EP</p> <p>APPLICANT: Anne Derlesey</p> <p>ADDRESS: 3, Newbold Road, Northchase, OX4 3PF</p> <p>TRADE OR CALLING: Store Manager</p> <p>APPLICANT: Alison Budgey</p> <p>ADDRESS: 7 Woodlands, Frodoad, Wissey, OX2 8HD</p> <p>TRADE OR CALLING: Administration Manager</p> <p>TAKE NOTICE that Applicant(s) intend to apply to the Licensing Justices of the London Division to be held at the place and time shown above for the provisional grant to them of a Justice's Licence authorising them to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption off the above premises.</p> <p>DATED: 10 September 1998</p> <p>PASNER & CO</p> <p>154 Fleet Street</p> <p>LONDON EC4A 3DF</p> <p>Solicitors and Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the said Applicants</p>	<p>WTF PRINTING LIMITED</p> <p>The Licensing Act 1964</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Licensing Act 1964 that a Meeting of the Council of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD on the 22nd September 1998 at 12.00 noon for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act.</p> <p>Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office of the Company, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD not later than noon on 11 October 1998.</p> <p>A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD between 10.00 am and 5 pm during the two days next before the Meeting.</p> <p>Dated this 16th day of September 1998</p> <p>By Order of the Board</p> <p>for S. Coppock, Director</p>	<p>The Licensing Act 1964</p> <p>R J BLANK & CO LIMITED</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Licensing Act 1964 that a Meeting of the Council of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD on the 22nd September 1998 at 12.00 noon for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act.</p> <p>Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office of the Company, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD not later than noon on 11 October 1998.</p> <p>A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD between 10.00 am and 5 pm during the two days next before the Meeting.</p> <p>Dated this 16th day of September 1998</p> <p>By Order of the Board</p> <p>for S. Coppock, Director</p>
<p>Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receiver</p> <p>TRADESMAN LIMITED</p> <p>Notice is hereby given that M H Hinton and G M Jacobides of C Jacobs & Co, 64-66 Churchway, London NW1 1LT were appointed Joint Administrative Receivers of the above named Company by the Cyprus Popular Bank Limited, Popular Bank House, 955 High Street, Finchley, London N12 8PW on the 7th 9 1998.</p> <p>Dated this 17th 9 1998</p>	<p>FLOWER FRESH LIMITED</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Licensing Act 1964 that a Meeting of the Council of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD on the 22nd September 1998 at 12.00 noon for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act.</p> <p>Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office of the Company, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD not later than noon on 11 October 1998.</p> <p>A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD between 10.00 am and 5 pm during the two days next before the Meeting.</p> <p>Dated this 16th day of September 1998</p> <p>By Order of the Board</p> <p>for S. Coppock, Director</p>	<p>The Licensing Act 1964</p> <p>G A RADCOYS LIMITED</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Licensing Act 1964 that a Meeting of the Council of the above named Company will be held at 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD on the 22nd September 1998 at 12.00 noon for the purpose mentioned in Section 99 of the said Act.</p> <p>Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office of the Company, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6SD not later than noon on 11 October 1998.</p> <p>A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected free of charge at Gibson Hewitt & Co, 5 Park Court, Pyrford Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6SD between 10.00 am and 5 pm during the two days next before the Meeting.</p> <p>Dated this 16th day of September 1998</p> <p>By Order of the Board</p> <p>for S. Coppock, Director</p>	<p>McKINLEY & YOUNG</p> <p>RATH OIL</p> <p>A non medicinal therapy oil warms and releases everyday muscular joint aches and pains the way nature intended.</p> <p>£12.99 inc. P.R. 40ml</p> <p>SPORTING BALM</p> <p>For the natural athlete relax away those aches and sprains from sport the natural way, a secret blend of oils and Cocoa Butter will warm and relax.</p> <p>£12.99 inc. P.R. 40g</p> <p>Approved by H.M. Trading Standards</p> <p>McKINLEY & YOUNG</p> <p>P.O. BOX 8502</p> <p>11 HILL STREET</p> <p>ADROSSAN</p> <p>KAZ2 8YB</p> <p>ACCESS - VISA - M/CARD</p> <p>CREDIT CARD HOTLINE</p> <p>FREEPHONE: 0800 3804108</p>

Look back in panic

Continued from page 1

involved in something, there might be some other agenda going on. My trust was gone." Trust in what? "Trust in things being certain. You become schizoid. You can be part of something, but are aware you are outside, watching, at the same time." I wonder if this gives him the tourist/attraction quality. He doesn't doubt it. "In some ways, what happened was hugely beneficial."

I ask what his mother was like as a person. "She was blonde before she was grey," he says. What does she make of you never seeing your brother? "Nothing much." Could you understand how she could leave? "If you are in an unhappy relationship, if it's a living death, then you have to make sacrifices. I don't sit in a moral tower of rectitude." Yes, but as a parent yourself now, can you understand?

"Why do you keep asking me about my mother?" I'm interested. "You ask so many questions." I'm paid to. "Well, stop." What's your relationship like with your mother now? "Leave off my mother!" Richard, by this point, is enjoying my company so much



that, not only does he keep snatching looks at his watch, I think he actually shakes it about at one point to check that it's still working. Still, he studied drama at Cape Town University then came to London, where he almost immediately met Joan. His marriage, he says, is the most wonderful thing, a kind of reclamation of what was taken from him during his childhood. "Our relationship is as fixed and trusting as a relationship can be." He has never been tempted to stray. "I probably hold fidelity in much higher esteem than I might have done if my parents had not divorced. To me, it just

defeats the object of being with someone if you are going to philander." You do get this sense with Richard that, in terms of the self-invention business, he has decided as much who he is not going to be, as who he is. Is there an authentic Richard E Grant? I wonder. Frankly, I'm not so sure but, then, neither is he. "We all wear masks, don't you think? We get them out at puberty, because the thought of our parents having sex is so horrifying, we have to find someplace to hide." Anyway, we have to wrap up now. Richard has "to do a book show on Sky, for my sins." I tell

him I intend to come to the party later. He says: "Oh, good." Like I said, he can be a terrific actor.

Deborah A. Ross. Not an actor, never kept a diary but if she did, the entry for last Tuesday evening might have read: "To Richard E Grant's do at Pharmacy. 'Hello Richard,' I say. 'Oh no, not you again,' he says. Richard is in full-throttle 'Darling, how perfectly splendid of you to come' thespian mode. Introduces me to his friends as: 'Someone who'll want to know about your mother.' It's a monumental celeb fest. Neil Pearson, Kenneth Cranham, Harriet Walter, Peter Capaldi, Samantha Fox, who I bump into by a huge display of Caneston. 'In an emergency, you could just break glass,' I say. 'You got frush then?' says Sam. No, but this would be a handy place to come if I did. I say. 'She's got frush, poor thing.' Sam announces loudly. Henceforward, have to spend the evening going about bleating 'haven't, haven't, haven't' and, consequently, do not enjoy myself overtly. Go home to bed. Dream I forgot to tell Richard that 'Esthermussen' would not have been as bad as 'Esther Rantzen.' Then wake up and realise I didn't thank God."

'By Design', Picador £15.99

Thou shalt not seek publicity

What's a rabbi without a synagogue to do when he can't find a place to preach? Well, he can always write a best-selling sex guide or two. By Ann Treneman

Sex. Sex and more sex. Rabbi Shmuley Boteach cannot talk about it enough. Somehow every subject, however cerebral, winds its way back to this three-letter word. After a while I give up, trying to pretend this isn't happening. After all, what did I expect? Here is the Orthodox rabbi who outraged his peers by writing a book titled *Kosher Sex*. He lost his synagogue as a result and now is working on a dating guide based on the Ten Commandments, a sort of "Dear Moses" agony uncle thing. There's lots of sex there too, obviously. So, finally, it becomes impossible to avoid the question: "Rabbi, when exactly did you become obsessed with sex?" He stops and, for a rare moment, the father-of-six doesn't say the word. But only for a moment.

"I think I'm obsessed with marriage," he says, his vowels as American as when he arrived in the UK a decade ago, aged 21. "It's just that I've discovered in counselling hundreds of couples - and I will debate anyone on this subject - that a healthy sex life is the essence of marriage, certainly in the early years. Sex takes the edge off life. And if you feel intimate with the person you are married to, then suddenly whether dinner is ready on time or if the house is tidy for the husband, these things aren't important."

I don't want to wreck his flow and so only make a mental note of this strange idea of creating a tidy house for the husband. But he's still concentrating on that three-letter word. "I think the modern world has destroyed sex. For men the great issue - and many men tell me this - and the reason they don't enjoy sex is that they know they are always being rated. All the Viagra in the world isn't going to cure impotence because the cause isn't clinical, it's fear of performance. For women it must be the same. They feel evaluated constantly. A recent study in the United States shows women faking it 64 per cent of the time. Once sex becomes a performance, once it becomes about anxiety."

I interrupt. "So when did you become so interested in this subject? Perhaps because I've avoided the S-word, the rabbi brandishes it."

"I wouldn't say that I am interested in sex in particular, but there is a consistent theme in my books that attraction has to be preserved in marriage. I don't mean physical attraction. I mean holistic attraction to the entire personality. People

think relationships are about compatibility and ask me 'why aren't you writing more about communication?' But I don't agree that it is about communication. A man is not drawn to a woman because he might have a great conversation with her. He is just drawn to her. If relationships were all about compatibility, we would all be gay."

Perhaps, with that, it is time for a pause before we move on to Monica Lewinsky, loneliness, ostracism and a commandment or two.

We are sitting in the Wigmore Street offices of EChaim, founded by the rabbi in Oxford. The group, which plans to bring - as he puts it - Judaism to young Jews, has been a phenomenal success. Guest speakers have included Mikhail Gorbachev, Boy George and Diego Maradona. Perhaps if he'd stopped there, the rabbi would be feted as a maverick. But he didn't.

His triumph - and undoing - is that he is a populist and a bit of a publicity junkie. He is addicted to sound bites. Here, for example, are just a few from our conversation:

"There are different kinds of Hasidic. I'm more the Giorgio Armani kind," he says.

"Cigar? I smoke Monte Christo Number Twoes but, after the [Monica] Lewinsky report, you are afraid to put a cigar in your mouth."

"The main problem here is that British Jews feel like guests in their own country. In general Jews are trying to be more British than the British, and religion here is more about - let me make sure I use the right words - respectability than effectiveness."

"I am absolutely amazed that anyone was prepared to marry me. When you have an inflated ego and you are totally self-absorbed and a woman is still interested in you, then that's impressive. I thought, she must be a good girl."

But his goal is not to be a media darling - or, as he calls it, a "court Jew" - for the *Today* programme or anywhere else for that matter. Instead, he aims to write the ultimate religious self-help book. "Isn't it incredible that religion missed the boat with the whole self-help thing?" He is not only on the boat, but steering it, thus *Kosher Sex* and *Dating Secrets of the Ten Commandments*.

His parents' nasty divorce made for a traumatic childhood which, he says, made him needy, self-obsessed and ambitious. On the plus side, it also helps him relate to most people and fed his obsession with marriage. It also gave him training for



Rabbi Shmuley Boteach: 'I smoke Monte Christo, but after the Lewinsky report you are afraid to put a cigar in your mouth'

Kalpesh Lathigra

being the outcast that he now is. This year he is up for the Preacher of the Year award, and it was a bit of a stretch to find a synagogue that would have him, even for a day.

Appropriately, he spoke on the three levels of loneliness. "I've turned to God personally in prayer; over the past few months. My wife is amazing," he said. "She's done her best to heal me. When you are isolated by your community, especially

when it's written on the front page of the Jewish press all over the world and you cannot find a place to give one fippin' sermon... I think there is a great consolation in prayer. I always tell the students that prayer is not a religious ritual, it is a psychological need. It's the ability for men just to talk to a being that can understand his pain. But we are a very lonely generation."

I am intrigued by his ideas on dat-

ing, mainly because the only dates that I'm aware of are pieces of fruit. He assures me otherwise. His thinking on the Ten Commandments and dating is best described as lateral.

In the book, which will appear in the spring, there will be about 40 secrets for every commandment. So here's a sample. Evidently the one that tells us not to swear is that we shouldn't state the obvious: "You need to develop your personality, not

just your body." Thou shalt not steal is all about not lying to each other and stealing their hearts. The one that says: "I am the Lord Your God" is all about making your date the centre of your universe for the evening. And, for men, it serves as a reminder that they are not God.

All of this is fuel for his populist cause but, predictably, we are soon back on more familiar ground. "The fact is that the rabbi who talks

about sex is popular because it is a confounding subject. Judaism has so much to say on the subject. It has volumes - libraries - of advice about this. Why haven't rabbis taught it? The answer is that they've adopted a very Christian view that sex is dirty. Absolutely. Yes, I think that many Jewish clerics today are influenced by Christian thought without even being aware of it." But not, obviously, this Jewish Orthodox pariah.

BABIES ARE born with a certain natural immunity to illness which is passed on to them in the womb. After birth, breast-fed babies receive additional antibodies in their mothers' milk which helps them fight infection. However this early immunity gradually wears off and babies have to depend on their own immune system to fight illness. Vaccination helps babies fight potentially fatal diseases and is most successful if it is carried out when children are young.

There is uniform agreement between the medical establishment and alternative practitioners that the existing vaccination programme should be adhered to. The Council of the Faculty of Homeopathy advises parents to have their children immunised with conventional vaccines as there is no scientific evidence to support other alternatives.

How does it work?

The child is given either a tiny prepared dose of the same bacteria or virus which causes the disease or tiny amounts of the chemicals that the disease produces. Vaccines are specially treated so they do not cause the disease. The child's immune system defends itself from this manageable dose of disease by developing its own antibodies. As a result, the body develops a natural defence system which protects it, should it ever come into contact with the disease.

Tips about immunisation

- Health visitors or GPs should say when your child needs to be immunised
- Most surgeries and health centres run special immunisation or baby clinics
- Each district in the country has an Immunisation Co-ordinator who can give you information and advice
- All immunisations are free
- Your doctor is obliged to

INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE
NO.6 IMMUNISATION



inform you of any risks before vaccinating your child
● Your doctor should know your child's medical history beforehand, especially if they are prone to allergies or convulsions.

The immunisation programme
● At two, three and four months - three separate visits - your baby is given a DTP injection and a oral polio vaccination
● The DTP or Hib vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus/pertussis, whooping cough and haemophilus influenza type b (Hib). Diphtheria causes breathing problems, damages the heart

and nervous system and in severe cases can kill. Tetanus is a potentially fatal disease that affects the muscles and humps. Whooping cough causes long bouts of coughing, vomiting and choking and in severe cases it can kill. Hib can cause diseases such as blood poisoning, pneumonia and meningitis
● Polio protects against poliomyelitis which attacks the nervous system and can cause permanent muscle paralysis
● At 12-15 months your baby is given one measles, mumps and rubella (MMMR) injection. The MMR vaccine protects against those three diseases. Measles is

a infectious virus which causes high fever, rash and can kill in severe cases. The mumps virus can cause meningitis, swollen glands, deafness and swelling of the testicles and ovaries. Rubella, also known as German measles can be serious. If a woman is exposed to it during pregnancy, it can cause serious harm or be fatal for her unborn baby. There has been recent debate over the safety of the MMR vaccine but international research including a World Health Organisation review has concluded that it has an excellent safety record

- At three to five years your child receives a further MMR injection, one more diphtheria/tetanus shot and one polio booster by mouth
- At 10-14 years your child may need a BCG injection to protect against tuberculosis (TB). The doctor will do a skin test first to see if they have already developed a natural immunity and if needed they will give an injection. TB affects the lungs, and also can affect the brain and the bones.
- At 13-18 years your child should have one last diphtheria/tetanus injection and a polio booster. Because vaccination has been so successful, the incidence of many childhood diseases has declined dramatically. However, some people are more susceptible than others to protect them, it is important that everyone is vaccinated. Experts say the percentage of children receiving the MMR immunisation need only drop below 92 per cent for epidemics of all three diseases to reoccur

For information contact: The Public Health Laboratory Service (0181-200 6868) or visit its website on www.phls.co.uk

'Women Unlimited - The Directory for Life' is published by Penguin, priced £9.99

IN THE STICKS STEVIE MORGAN

Yes, children, your mother is a bag lady

WHEN I was married, which feels like several incarnations ago - the sort of thing you might uncover after hypnosis - preparing for the start of the new school year was like the mobilisation of the Russian Army for the First World War. Six weeks was the bare minimum to allow supplies and transport to be in a stage approaching combat readiness. Everything had to be bought, name-taped, washed, ironed and ready almost before the end of the summer term.

However, in my unmarried incarnation the skills of advance uniform preparation have dropped away. So this year, we have spent the summer in our little island of fields and garden without a thought for the coming term and the morning routine of public appearance in the village. School, shop and other parents have seemed as distant as the Antarctic, which is how I came to start pre-school preparations at 8.05 am on the first day of term.

Skirts, trousers and shirts were easily tracked down, in a ball in the same bedroom corner where they'd spent the last two months. It was the smaller items, which have lives aside from the sartorial, that were more tricky. Shoes can be goatees, missiles or marble boxes. Ties can be garrottes, climbing equipment or skipping ropes. In this instance Buster and Bunny's knotted ties were holding up a corner of the tent in the garden. Their spectacularly unpaired school shoes were: 1) under the dresser with a mummified orange and a set of fairy

lights; 2) in the dog's mouth; 3) on top of Bunny's wardrobe after a fight; and 4) in a patch of nettles. Both sets of pinnacles were at the bottom of the pond following a re-enactment of *Titanic* (Barbie as Kate Winslet and a small earless teddy as Lennie the heart-throb). Yet in spite of these seemingly insoluble problems we made it to the school gates on time, and the only real blots on the uniform horizon were the squealing noise that Buster's left foot made (the shoe having been in the nettle patch for some time) and the hole in Bunny's skirt where the nail-varnish remover had removed the material as well as the green nail varnish.

I'd been so absorbed that morning in my children's relaunch into the village school scene that I'd forgotten about my own new role on this stage. As of the start of term I am secretary of the PTA. I was supposed to be standing at the door of the school, casual yet efficient - clean at the very least - with a letter of welcome for all the new parents and a cheery reminder of the date of our first meeting of term. I hadn't done the letter; I couldn't remember the date and, as for standing at the door, I was wearing a pair of Doug's boxer shorts and a jumble sale T-shirt bearing the encouraging logo "Suck This".

From the cover of the car seat I looked out at the other mothers - clean and efficient to a woman - with their neat and name-taped children. I felt my mother spinning in her grave and my former

husband spitting in contempt. I snuck back through the lanes determined to word-process letters, mail-order grey skirts, pair of socks and put on some real clothes. But it was such a lovely day, sky the colour of faded denim, and Doug was already potting and digging and mulching to full-on Radio 1. So instead I wrestled with the bindweed in my borders, swore at the nettles and held bits of wood together for Doug to nail. It should have taken just a couple of hours, but then I heard the weather forecast and realised this could be the last blackberry-picking and lawn-mowing day for some time. I did get as far as the real clothes because I needed protection from bramble thorns, so I had my own jeans and one of my dad's shirts on when I picked the kids up at the end of the afternoon.

Sadly, I'd forgotten something else. Outgoing PTA secretary Carrie and her Polaroid camera. She handed me the two Tesco carrier bags of PTA paperwork. "Just stand against the wall over there," she said. "Look I know I'm not quite up to speed, but a firing squad is a bit premature," I said. "In that patch of sun. Lovely. This is just so that new parents know who to ask about PTA stuff." She beamed, clearly and efficiently pinning the new photo to the parents notice board.

So, new parents, the bag lady with the green and purple blotches, the section of straw bale on her head and the buttonless Fifties dress shirt is your new PTA secretary. Welcome!

Great names need not apply

The Vienna State Opera House
makes a profit, but is it a bad case
of accountancy over artistry?

By Philipp Blom

The record for the canvas that has been longest in the making undoubtedly goes to the portrait of Mary Magdalen, painted since 1958 by a succession of Cavarcossis in the Vienna State Opera's production of *Tosca*. Many generations of tenors have put brush to canvas with earnestly furrowed brow, only to leave off immediately to sing recumbent in the arms of their friend and assuage their jealous lover.

Nothing is changed for the sake of change in Vienna's main opera house, the State Opera, which is one of three in a city not much larger than Birmingham. On the face of it, little change seems necessary: not only does the house have the Vienna Philharmonic as its resident orchestra and an illustrious history to look back on, but it has also operated well within budget for several years. This, ironically, is now beginning to turn against the house and its director, Ioan Holender, as the artistic quality of performances is beginning to raise concerns – an inversion of Covent Garden's plight.

Initially, Holender's appointment to the top job seemed an inspired choice: a singers' agent, he ran the house jointly with Eberhart Waechter, formerly a much-loved and outstanding baritone. Holender looked after the finances and the administration while Waechter concentrated on artistic issues, in conjunction with the musical director of the house, Claudio Abbado.

The "dream team", however, split when Abbado left in 1991 after a disagreement with Holender about the costs of the Covent Garden production of *Boris Godunov*, which Vienna had taken over. When Waechter suddenly died of a heart attack in 1992, Holender took charge alone. Never known for excessive politeness, he runs a tight ship and is the first director not to have to make the ritual trips to the culture ministry in order to ask for more money.

The price of his success, however, is becoming increasingly obvious.

While many great names (the "three tenors" among them) no longer sing in Vienna because Holender refuses to pay fees which he considers disproportionately large, others have let it be known that they will not appear because of the uneven casting.

All too often, a well-known singer can be seen struggling with, or against, mediocre colleagues who simply should not stand on a stage like this, with a conductor who is often inexperienced and an orchestra which is the Philharmonic's "fourth team". While the strategy of paying only one top fee per evening certainly keeps down costs, the great, electrifying evenings seem to be a thing of the past. In addition to this, Holender usually funds only one elaborate new production each season, making other productions look like inflated sets of school plays.

With top conductors coming less frequently because of reduced rehearsal time (which, as we all know, is money), the performances are in danger of sliding into dire mediocrity, a fact confirmed by the most dedicated and most knowledgeable listeners, who are more than usually nostalgic about the "good old days" when there was genuine excitement during the performances and the ecstatic audience would even make a singer repeat an aria.

The fiscal prudence of its director has also had other curious consequences for the State Opera, too: Vienna is bound to be the only major opera house without a proper archive, so the operatic memorabilia and documents of more than a century have been lost. Despite stating the importance of having such an archive, Mr Holender has not yet seemed able to put his signature to a piece of paper authorising its institution.

Under normal circumstances, it would have taken less than this iron regime to arouse the rage of a public famous for its passionate scrutiny of every detail in the life of the opera. Vienna's spirit of controversy, however, is surprisingly subdued.



Tight budgets at Vienna's State Opera House are creating discontent among artists and audiences

Patrick Forestier

Despite the obvious problems, the current director does not endure any of the vitriol in the press which has made the job nearly impossible for some of his predecessors. Many people even see him as a hero for keeping the house open every evening in a time that is increasingly difficult for opera even in Vienna.

Resignation is creeping in. "Things have changed," says a State Opera employee. "When a performance of *La Bohème* was cancelled under Karajan at the last moment, there literally was a riot in the auditorium. When Pavarotti left us in the lurch one evening last year there was barely a whistle of protest. During the past 10 years, Vienna has seen empires crumble all around. This house may be a crumbling empire as well, but nobody dares to say so."

Instead of attacking the weakened house, as has happened in London, people are rallying round "their"

opera and putting on a brave face. The existence of the State Opera and its place in Viennese life are never questioned, money lavished on the house is considered money well spent, and the house is never used as a pawn in a phoney tabloid war of "us" against "them". Instead, the *Kronenszeitung*, the largest tabloid, carries reviews of operatic events and at the local greengrocers one can hear discussions about the performances. People may attend the opera regularly (though it is usually sold out), but it is still regarded an integral part of life no more extraordinary than football.

One thought refreshingly absent from the discussion is that cheapest of rhetorical scams, the accusation of elitism. The reason for this is not the fact that the toffs are paying for "their entertainment" themselves; on the contrary, funding is well above that of London. High funding, how-

ever, means that tickets are cheap, with reasonable seats available for as little as £5. Accusations of elitism against this most popular of art forms simply do not arise here.

An institution which has helped to foster this popular attachment to the State Opera, and that has brought countless people to love opera, is the provision of standing places. More than 550 of these are available for every performance, those in the gallery for £1, and those behind the stalls, probably the best location in the auditorium, for only a little more.

This is not only a charitable thing to do: it is also extraordinarily farsighted. Those who are hooked on opera as students will pay for expensive seats later. Here, a large group of regulars, experts and addicts congregates – performances and singers are compared, acclaimed and booed. This crowd can make and break performances.

True, great performances with famous singers and conductors tend to produce large queues, but the atmosphere of a crowd of opera-mad addicts and of the simply curious, camping under the arcades of the opera house for a night in order to get tickets for such a performance in the early morning, is wonderful, comparable only with the crowd at the Proms. At the new, efficient and tame State Opera, this culture, too, seems to be on the wane. Queues are shortening and it is increasingly tourists who take up the standing places – another indicator of the state of current affairs.

The danger, in Vienna as elsewhere, is that the opera-loving public begins to live in an idealised past populated with great singers, and the living opera increasingly becomes the victim of its high costs, to be replaced more and more by lucrative media events.

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today
On this day in 1903, the first Westerners were copyrighted. Kit Carson, with a running time of 21 minutes, showed our hero escaping from red Indians; in the 15-minute *The Pioneers* our heroine escapes from red Indians.

Tomorrow
ITV was launched in 1955 and its lunchtime news featured the first female news reader, Barbara Mandell. The first commercial was for Gibbs SR toothpaste.

Wednesday
Saxophonist John Coltrane was born in Hamlet, North Carolina, in 1926 and the world of jazz became his Elsinore; he played with Miles Davis on the classic albums *Round About Midnight* and *Kind of Blue*.

Thursday
Branwell Brontë died of drink and drugs in 1842. Readers of *Wuthering Heights* wondered where his loving sister Emily got the idea for the degenerate and alcoholic Hindley Earnshaw.

Friday
In 1906 composer Dmitri Shostakovich was born in St Petersburg, Leningrad, as it later became, gave its name to his seventh symphony, which was first performed there in during the most discordant days of the Second World War.

Saturday
In 1687 the Parthenon, the fifth-century BC monument dedicated to the frigid Athene ("Parthenos Maiden") in Athens, was redecorated. A mortar fired by the Venetian army detonated the defenders' store of explosives.

Sunday
The first 3-D feature film, a silent nautical yarn called *The Power of Love*, was premiered in Los Angeles in 1922. The first "talkie" in three dimensions was not seen until 25 years later.

JONATHAN SALE

BRITISH GAS
GUARANTEES
CHEAPER
ELECTRICITY
UNTIL

Paradox in black and white

THEATRE
MISS EVERS' BOYS
THE BARBICAN
LONDON

"THE TUSKEGEE Study of Untreated Syphilis in The Male Negro, 1932-1972" – the project's very name strikes a chill, for how do you monitor such effects, unless you deliberately withhold treatment? David Feldshuh's powerful play, *Miss Evers' Boys*, examines how this real-life study arose, the flawed thinking that sustained it for so long, and the strange paradox of how it was a black nurse, genuinely devoted to the men being used as guinea pigs, who played a vital role in holding the group together.

We first see Eunice Evers (Lorey Hayes) in 1972 giving evidence to the US Senate: the play shuttles between the chronological re-enactment of her career and her witness-stand commentary. It all begins so positively. Miss Evers arrives in Macon County, Alabama, to assist in a new government-funded health programme, part of which involves testing and



'Miss Evers' Boys' is a study of how man has used his fellow man as a guinea pig

Geraint Lewis

treating the local men for "bad blood" or syphilis. Attractive, good-humoured, intimate with the culture, she's a superb intermediary between the white doctor and the understandably suspicious blacks who love her; and even name their glee-dancing team "Miss Evers' Boys" after her.

But then the money dries up and the white doctor persuades his black counterpart and Miss Evers that the best way of being first in line for the next

funds is by keeping Washington interested in disease. Specifically, by instigating a study that, in using living subjects, will surpass the Oslo Project that catalogued untreated syphilis in bodily remains. The consent of the men is never sought and they are tricked right down the line, getting told that the excruciating spinal taps they are given for research purposes are healing "back shots".

You sit watching Martin L. Platt's beautifully acted pro-

duction in an agony of frustration because at each stage where the Tuskegee Project might have been brought to a halt, the white doctor artfully plays on the fears and hopes of his colleagues. 1946, for example, sees the crucial advent of penicillin which, in curing white and black equally, gets rid of the racial slur around syphilis more decisively than the Project, in one of its aims, could ever do.

The play is admirable in the way that it pulls you into the nurse's dilemma while not relaxing its stringency about her well meaning, yet not blameless role. There's a wonderful scene towards the end when Tab Baker's excellent Willie Johnson, the eager little glee-dancer whose "body was his freedom", limps in stiffly with a stick to confront the doctors and nurses in 1972. "Watch," he brusquely orders them, and he plays a record that he used to leap about to all those years ago. His immobility, but for his head nodding out the rhythm, is a rebuke of piercing eloquence.

PAUL TAYLOR

A life's work in reflection

CLASSICAL
THE LINDSAYS
WIGMORE HALL
LONDON

IT'S NOW something of a cliché that most composers have to die to achieve true recognition. Sir Michael Tippett lived long enough to avoid this fate, although it was only after acclaim in America that a wary musical establishment here embraced him fully as "Britain's greatest living composer".

Now that he is no longer with us, there is somehow a possibility, if not of re-assessment, then of standing back and looking again at his life's work as a completed whole. His five string quartets are central to that work and life, and the Lindsays' celebratory gesture of playing all five in two evenings is entirely appropriate. A quarter of a century of experience and the premières of two of the quartets under their belts in-

evitably gives their interpretation a special air of authority. Even their slightly dishevelled, shirt-sleeved appearance on stage was rather reminiscent of Tippett's endearingly off-beat informality, but there was nothing informal about their approach to the war-time Quartet No. 2. Beginning at a deliberate pace, the first movement came across as fairly decorous, with only the occasional outburst of passion; similarly, with the troubled chromatic inter-twinnings of the slow fugue. Things livened up in an energetic, if not faultless, rendition

of the busy scherzo, and the players achieved a trenchant quality in the dynamic last movement, pushing forward to its remarkably achieved tender and affirmative conclusion.

The weird, rasping opening bars of Tippett's Fourth Quartet, written 30 years later, appeared to inhabit an entirely different world. In his post-*King Priam* language, the composer eschewed formal counterpoint in favour of big homophonic gestures and the sort of twiddly mirror-image melodic lines that became a worrying mannerism in his later music. There is a much wider range and a new confidence and exuberance that may have arisen from increasing recognition – but is the musical quality there?

A very remarkable piece, nevertheless, given a performance of supreme conviction by the players who first performed it 20 years ago, negotiating its dense textures and fiendish complexities (now untrammelled by the disciplines of fugue) with the familiarity of experience. The irruption of the Beethoven quote in the last movement was striking, and the Lindsays negotiated the intercutting between frenzied rhythms and floating harmonies to realise its strange, frozen ending.

As if the demands of Tippett were not enough, they took on the mammoth challenge of its putative model, Beethoven's Op.130 Quartet, complete with *Grosse Fuge* finale, and won through with flying colours.

LAURENCE HUGHES

How I faced up to the camera

Penelope Wilton was overjoyed when Alan Bennett tailored a new 'Talking Heads' monologue for her. By David Benedict

Writers dream of being shaken into wakefulness by a message being left on the answering machine. "Hello, it's the Nobel committee here. When might you be free to collect your prize?" For actors it's slightly different. Prizes are nice, but it's good roles that they're after.

Last Summer, Penelope Wilton was at the Almeida theatre in David Hare's masterly production of *Heartbreak House* when she received a card from a man she'd never previously worked with. "It was from Alan Bennett saying he'd written this piece and could he send it to me? He did so, saying 'if you like it, perhaps you'd like to do it... I shan't mind at all if you don't. I said I'd love to.'"

That, clearly, is putting it mildly. Months later, seated hidden away in the corner of a deserted Kensington hotel on a Sunday night, you can tell she's still quietly thrilled that he asked her to play Rosemary, the sole character in *Nights in the Gardens of Spain*, one of the long-awaited second series of *Talking Heads*.

Ten years ago, senior television dignitaries who should have known better did a lot of headbaking when the first series was suggested. Even the Rolls-Royce names of Thora Hird, Patricia Routledge, Julie Walters, Maggie Smith, Stephanie Cole and Bennett himself couldn't convince some pundits that monologues to camera would make riveting television. How wrong they were. Endlessly repeated, they have been sold across the world and been translated on to video, audio tape and even on to the stage.

Next month, the new series begins with Patricia Routledge and further returns by Thora Hird and Julie Walters, plus debuts from Eileen Atkins, David Haig and Penelope Wilton. But you can see Wilton in tomorrow night's BBC2 film *This Could Be The Last Time*.

It was the surprisingly subtle emotional range of George Day's script - half-romantic comedy, half chase-thriller - that persuaded her to play Marjorie, the sensible, put-upon daughter of Joan Plowright. When mother goes AWOL in Paris, Wilton gets to do what she does particularly well on screen: worry.

There's a very beautiful scene in a police café where she is sitting with a charming French detective talking happily about her childhood. The camera rests on Wilton's upturned face as she talks of her parents' early expectations of her. Her head drops and you suddenly see her feeling the loss of her missing mother. As she looks up, the smile and both cheeks have dropped in pain. It's film acting of a very high calibre; the sort of thing which must have attracted Bennett.

That quality of performance is built not only on imaginative sympathy but real cinema technique, both of which are put under intense pres-



Penelope Wilton can laugh now at the memory of almost getting to the end of Alan Bennett's monologue, forgetting the last line, and having to start from the beginning again Emma Boom

sure in her *Talking Heads* play which was filmed in one 12-hour day.

Unlike television, which tends to be shot on several cameras and cut together, this is on film, i.e. one camera, but with very long, almost theatrical takes lasting for minutes on end. She laughs at the memory of being word-perfect and then falling at the final hurdle which meant starting all over again.

"We'd do a take and Alan would be round the corner with Mark Shivas, the producer, watching on a monitor and he'd come round and say, 'I knew it, you were getting to the end of the take and I was stuffing my handkerchief in my mouth hoping you'd get there...'"

On most productions, editing means that slip-ups and dropped words can be spliced in, but with something as exposed and tightly well-written as this, you can't. "You

know immediately if you've said the wrong thing because the rhythm has been broken, so you just have to go back to the beginning again."

Although ideally the viewer is unaware of the problem, the most complex decision for the actors in these plays is their relationship to the camera. "The tricky thing is how much do you talk to the audience as if talking to a friend and how much is actually to yourself? How much are you looking directly into the camera and how much do you reflect back to yourself? It's the same in conversation... you don't always look straight in the eyes of the person you're talking to."

Wilton strongly believes that for work like this, one has to feel there is another person there. "One has to engage with the audience and you do that by having a strong relationship with the camera. It's not about

just doing it and oh, by the way, there's a camera watching you. You really have to take the camera in. Otherwise it becomes disengaged."

Not that she's ready to relinquish everything to the camera. "Your performance has to be engaged, you have to keep it going," she says. If you leave that to clever editing, it takes away from the writing and the piece.

She and her director, Tristram Powell, were given a pretty free hand. The script had no camera or stage directions and it was up to them to find natural breaks and some changes. Bennett came along to a run-through quite late on in the proceedings.

"A bit nerve-wracking," says Wilton, understatement being the order of the day. "He was very sweet because, although we were only in a little room, he tried to keep out of my eyeline. But you're still aware that he wrote it and you could completely mess it up at any point. But he was very encouraging."

Like opera singers who learn their roles before rehearsals, Wilton arrived with the part committed to memory. Did that mean she had to struggle with re-writes? Apparently not. What she first saw is what we'll now get... except that it turns

out that Bennett wasn't too sure of his plants. "We had a climbing magnolia at one point until someone told him that magnolias don't climb... and I asked to change the word 'kiddies' to children because kiddies is a northern expression which sounded wrong coming out of me." He'd already told her not to worry about any accent. "I want you doing it," he said.

Which is what Bennett has got through she refused to check the progress of her performance during the shoot. "I never watch playbacks on monitors, though there is something to be said about going to the rushes when you're filming over a long period," she says. "Things are shot so out of sequence, it's good to have that sense of where you're going, but with this happening over one really concentrated day you just go for it."

In fact, in common with most actors who physically recoil when seeing their own work stuck in aspic on screen, she wasn't even going to watch the finished film. "I can't look at myself critically. Vainly, I always end up thinking, 'Oh dear, that jumper... you know, all those sorts of things... you're so astounded by seeing yourself.' But then realising that she would be away when it is to be finally transmitted, she watched it discreetly on her own.

"I was taken up by the fact that it's a really good story and it didn't really look too much like me... it seemed to be somebody else. That doesn't always happen. I was rather pleased by that."

'This Could Be The Last Time' is on BBC2 tomorrow. *Talking Heads*, also on BBC2, begins on 6 Oct

'I knew you were getting to the end. I was stuffing a handkerchief in my mouth,' said Bennett

GUILTY PLEASURES

A flare for historical detail

Louise Levene loves the old television shows - for their interesting period costume, of course

MY NAME is Louise Levene and I watch Granada Plus. There. Nothing to be ashamed of. Some of the most popular programmes in the schedules are vintage repeats. Yes, it's a load of old rubbish, yes, I have seen it all already but it's comfort food for the soul. Try it.

Any night this week you could get home, pour yourself a large Campari and soda (or similar swinging tipples), slip into a snappy little trouser suit and wet-look boots, put a dab of Madame Rochas behind each ear and soak up *The Avengers* with Diana Rigg in a re-run nicely timed to highlight the sheer awfulness of the movie version. Pausing only to rustle up some gammon and pineapple, you could then settle down with your video of Roger Moore and Tony Curtis in *The Persuaders!*. It would only take an aerial on top of the set to project you back into the strange, orange-lampshaded, bell-bottomed, cheese-and-onion flavoured world that bridged the Sixties and Seventies. For a brief moment the Seventies revival made this sort of thing quite cool but the tide is turning. By the time you reach the end of this column it will probably be safely back in Nashville.

Obviously most of the retro TV pleasures are sartorial. With the exception of Patrick Macnee's timeless fusion of Kings Road and Saville Row ("principal items of Mr Macnee's



Persuaded? You might be

wardrobe by Pierre Cardin") all the clothes are camp and mostly unwearable. Diana Rigg with flick-ups at the ends of her hair and the corners of her eyes is the Sindy doll made flesh. She alone can carry off the peculiar skin-divers' cat-suits and A-line tops that feature in the fifth series. Alan Hughes was no substitute for the great John Bates, who designed the definitive Emma Peel look. ABC TV's desire to sell to the American market and the grad-

ual introduction of colour TV in Britain at the time meant that most programmes of this period are tinted with unnatural gaiety. But Ms Peel definitely loses some of her Amazonian mystique in sunflower yellow. Primary colours are more suited to the various dolly birds who adorn *The Persuaders!*.

Wig-spotting is always good for a giggle, but the real laughs are provided by Moore and Curtis themselves in a hilarious range of playboy casuals.

Even today Tony Curtis does not wear roomy, high-waisted bloomers for the fuller figure. Back in 1971 his clothes were a bit on the small side, if anything. Indeed, tightness was the defining characteristic of early Seventies wear. Our Tune makes plain the distinction between an earl's son and his own dead-end kid-made-good persona by always wearing a bum-freezer leather jacket. And gloves. Quite why anyone would wear gloves all day while at play on the Riviera is never really explained. And they really are at play on the Riviera some of the time. Moore's earlier jet-setting vehicle *The Saint* handled the foreign travel problem with ludicrous economy. It was the same formula every week: library footage of the Eiffel Tower or the Bridge of Sighs as a pre-

lude to Simon Templar striding confidently on to a cardboard set signposted "Reception" and saying "Scusi" to somebody. Not so *The Persuaders!*, which did actually shoot some of the stuff abroad, spending a then-staggering £100,000 an episode. The promise of fun and games on the corniche enabled Lord (then Sir Lew) Grade to persuade various guest stars to put in an appearance. Well, when I say "stars" I suppose I mean Susan George, Joan Collins and Amette Andre all of whom can be relied upon to turn up in a matching coat and dress ensemble.

But period charm would not be enough on its own. The dialogue for both *The Avengers* and *The Persuaders!* is pleasantly dry and with scripts by the likes of Terry Nation and Brian Clemens one should not be surprised at the quality etc, but this anal interest in the minutiae of TV history is really only a feeble attempt to disguise what is little more than a pathetic thirty-something nostalgia trip. I'm not even sure I'm watching it ironically any more. It's becoming a very bad habit, the televisual equivalent of sitting down with a family-sized tin of spaghetti hoops and a plastic spoon: revolting, but strangely delicious.

The Avengers and *The Persuaders!* can be seen every weekday on Granada Plus

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THE INDEPENDENT

NETWORK

The day the Times stood still

Last Sunday, on what should have been one of its busiest days ever, the mighty New York Times' website was forced offline by a group of hackers. Tamsin Todd reports



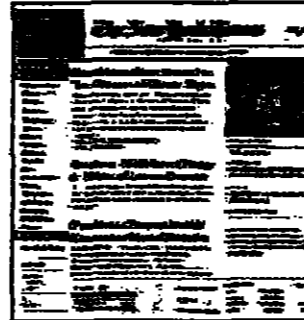
Cause célèbre: convicted hacker Kevin Mitnick AP

Readers who logged into the New York Times web site last Sunday were in for a surprise. Instead of getting full coverage of the Starr report, they found themselves reading raunchy graphics and a cryptic message: "Since we are now Internet terrorists, we figure we should demand some ransom or something," it began. "So pay us 104 girls, six billion in newspaper subscription and maybe a printing press or something. Not like you guys know what fair journalism is anyway."

It was the largest-ever hacker attack on a major media web site. Unable to get rid of the hacker's page, New York Times officials decided to take the site offline at 10.30am New York time, two hours after the early morning break-in. The site was shut down for more than nine hours on what was expected to be one of its busiest

Sundays of the year, given the online publication of the Starr report two days earlier. As of this weekend, some sections of the New York Times site were still unavailable to readers.

The FBI's computer crime squad is investigating the break-in. A hacker organisation called Hacking For Grls, or HFG, claimed responsibility for the attack. The jumbled message (part of which was embedded in HTML source code and not visible on the Web page itself) included obscene language, quotations from Voltaire and Tennyson and a poetic jab at the newspaper: "hanging here at new york times/s the best place to sling our rhymes/poor journalism these guys have the knack/which explains the good security they lack". It called for the release of convicted hacker Kevin Mitnick, and assailed the Times' technology reporter John Markoff and a New Mexico security consultant Caroline Meinel, among others, for their coverage of the hacking community. In interviews with The Independent, Markoff and Meinel talked about the attack. "I find it a particularly obnoxious and absurd way of protesting," said Markoff from the Times bureau in San Francisco. "Not only was this against the law, but it hurt people."



The hacker's page vehemently attacked Markoff for his coverage of the 1995 pursuit and capture of Mitnick, who is currently in a federal prison awaiting trial in January on charges of parole violation and several hacking-related crimes. Some members of the hacking underground believe Mitnick was unjustly arrested, and that Markoff's portrayal of the case was inaccurate.

In July, the hacker magazine 2600 protested outside the New York offices of Miramax Films, where a movie version of Markoff's book about the Mitnick case, *Takedown* (Hyperion 1996, co-written with Tsutomu Shimomura) is in production. Part of the Sunday message was addressed directly to Markoff: "Hi John Markoff, this one is for you. We expect front page like you promised. So why break our agreement and tell the world we are working together on this little hack? Do you have nightmares about helping imprison Kevin? Knowing that your lies and deceit helped bring down this justice?"

Carolyn Meinel is equally perplexed. When asked what she thought the point of the attack was, she replied, "I ask myself that question all the time. They're going to go to jail. Maybe they have some very deep, mysterious purpose." Meinel is an independent security consultant and author of *The Happy Hacker* (American Eagle Publications, 1998), which she describes as "a book about old-fashioned, harmless hacking, the kind of thing anyone can do to have fun with computers without breaking the law". She is currently writing a new book, *Hacker Wars*, about hacker gangs like HFG.

Earlier this year HFG attacked the computers of Rf66, a New Mexico Internet service provider where Meinel has an account, and Sunday's attack accused Meinel of baiting and trapping hackers. "She is writing a chapter about us in her second book. She has contacted HFG on numerous occasions asking us if we could show our 'hacking prowess' (her words) so that she may cover it exclusively in her book... her goal all along has been to lead us on, watch us get busted, then write about us," it said. Markoff, Shimomura, Mitnick, Quittner, MCD, Stoll/Hess... see a pattern forming here? We sure do."

Markoff and Meinel are reluctant to respond to such claims. Still, it appears they know more about HFG than they are letting on. I ask about the kind of relationship that develops between hackers and the writers who cover them. What risks will hackers take to get media attention? What promises will

reporters make to build hackers' trust? Are the two groups mutually dependent? Markoff, who stopped writing about hackers several years ago, replies abruptly: "I have no relationship with these guys."

Meinel is a little more forthcoming. She confirms that she is writing about HFG in her book. "I'm sure they'll be in *Hacker Wars*. I can absolutely promise they'll be there."

How much of a threat to the global computer network are break-ins like this one? A big threat, says Markoff, pointing to the amount of time and effort being spent on the clean-up.

Win Schwartz of InfoWar, an information warfare web resource and consultancy also mentioned in last Sunday's hack, concurs. "These are cowards and neo-nazis with no socially redeeming values, who refuse to engage in an intelligent debate." And John Vranesich, founder of Antionline, a Web site that tracks hacker activity, has predicted that we can expect to see more break-ins as Mitnick's trial date approaches. "We're going to be seeing a strengthened effort in hacking Web sites to get the 'Kevin Mitnick' name known."

Meinel takes a more conciliatory view. "They make a lot of noise. They send death threats and say a lot of nasty things. But when you get down to it, they don't actually do very much."

The hacked NYT page is at www.antonline.com/archives/pages/www.nytimes.com/hyftwar:www.infowar.com

BYTES

ANDY OLDFIELD

JUDGE THOMAS Penfold Jackson last week rejected Microsoft's request to dismiss the anti-trust case brought against it by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and 20 states, and moved the starting date of the trial back to 15 October.

Pre-trial manoeuvring continued with allegations that Microsoft employees had deleted e-mails pertinent to the DOJ's case. Microsoft denied the allegations and accused the government of attempting to undermine the company's reputation.

Microsoft also claimed the DOJ was using documents out of context in its key arguments about its competitive relationship with Netscape. "The government has repeatedly used tiny snippets of information out of context to deliberately mislead the public and distort facts in this case," Mark Murray, a Microsoft spokesman, said.

"We believe that the judge and the public will see the government's action in a very different light once all the facts about their misuse of snippets are shown at trial."

Meanwhile, at a Software Publishers Association (SPA) conference in Chicago, Microsoft was much more contrite. Tod Nielsen, general manager for developer relations, apologised about the company's past arrogance. "This is a sincere and heartfelt apology. Let's build a relationship going forward so you and Microsoft can be successful," he said.

The SPA has been critical of Microsoft recently. It encouraged the anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft and twice turned down a top Microsoft executive's attempts to win a seat on the SPA board.

THE US last week slightly relaxed its restrictions on the export of strong encryption products made by American companies.

Under new regulations announced in the White House, no licence will be

necessary for US companies to export to 45 approved countries software and hardware products with an encryption strength of 56 bits.

"The administration will strengthen its support for electronic commerce by permitting the export of strong encryption when used to protect sensitive financial, health, medical and business proprietary information in electronic form," said Mike McCurry, a White House press secretary.

Industry spokesmen said the decision was a step in the right direction but that it did not go far enough. Civil rights groups pointed out that while many businesses may securely transmit information over the Internet under the revised policy, private citizens do not get any help. "We see this a half a loaf at best," said Alan Davidson, of the Centre for Democracy and Technology.

"Providing relief for industry is welcome, but it leaves the little guys out in the cold. When do the rest of us get to protect our privacy?"

INTEL SIGNED a deal last week with RealNetworks licensing its video compression and streaming technology to be incorporated into RealSystem G2 that is due to ship next month. The new software, which will encode data four times quicker than existing streaming technologies, will also decode quickly and deliver better quality video and audio over the Web.

"The software will lower the barriers to widespread deployment of streaming media programming on the Web," said Craig Kline, Intel's vice-president and architecture labs director.

The agreement is seen by some analysts as proof of a widening rift between Intel and Microsoft, first seen in the US anti-trust case, where Microsoft is alleged to have pressured Intel to drop Internet-related projects.

Intel would not say whether Microsoft knew about the licensing deal with RealNetworks, which is an example of Intel sharing technology with a Microsoft competitor in a key area for future profit on the Net.

FINAL APPROVAL from the International Telecommunications Union in Geneva was eventually given last week to the V90 industry standard 56kbps modem technology. The standard had been set in February and adopted by modem manufacturers and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) as a way of halting a standards battle based on competing and incompatible 56kbps technologies.

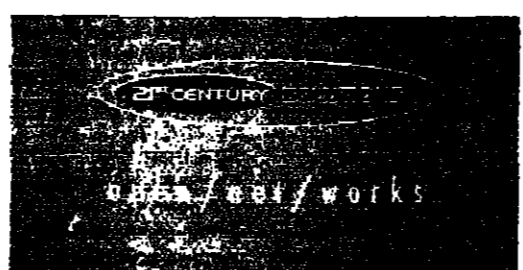
Although hailed as a solution to compatibility issues, V90 is still causing some problems. With Apple's iMac, users have had difficulty establishing a dial-up connection with their ISPs - a problem that Apple says is caused by ISPs not properly implementing the V90 code.

Ratification of the standard should mean that sales of faster modems will take off, but prices, which have already been cut, are not expected to fall further.

PC DESIGNS drawing on the look of Apple's iMac were to the fore at last week's Intel Developer Forum in Palm Springs, California. Top of the range of possible PCs for the new millennium was Intel's Aztec, a machine described by the company as "a monument to the gods of speed and power".

The Katmai-chip powered PC has four USB ports and specialist ports for connecting devices such as camcorders. Other PC shapes were based on the double-helix, clamshells and a vase. All the machines had a sleep-mode that allows them to be reactivated in eight seconds. iMac lookalike PCs are expected to start shipping next year with the Korean company Trigen's E-Machine range.

Novell



2015.10.12

Take a look at the colour of money

Can computer gaming's first black hero blast his way into the hearts and wallets of young white males? By Mark Chadbourn

Lara Croft's big guns have blown a few holes in a gaming world obsessed with the idea that players could only relate to testosterone-dripping protagonists. Now, almost three years after Tomb Raider's conception, non-PC - as in politically correct - rules of the games are about to go through the grinder.

When it is released early next year, Shadow Man will be the industry's first mass-market product to feature a black protagonist. It's a bizarre fact to consider, given the cultural liberalism of the rest of the entertainment industry, but it only serves to underline the arch-conservatism of games makers guided by the near-religious belief that the majority of young-white male computer users can't cope with anything beyond their immediate frame of reference.

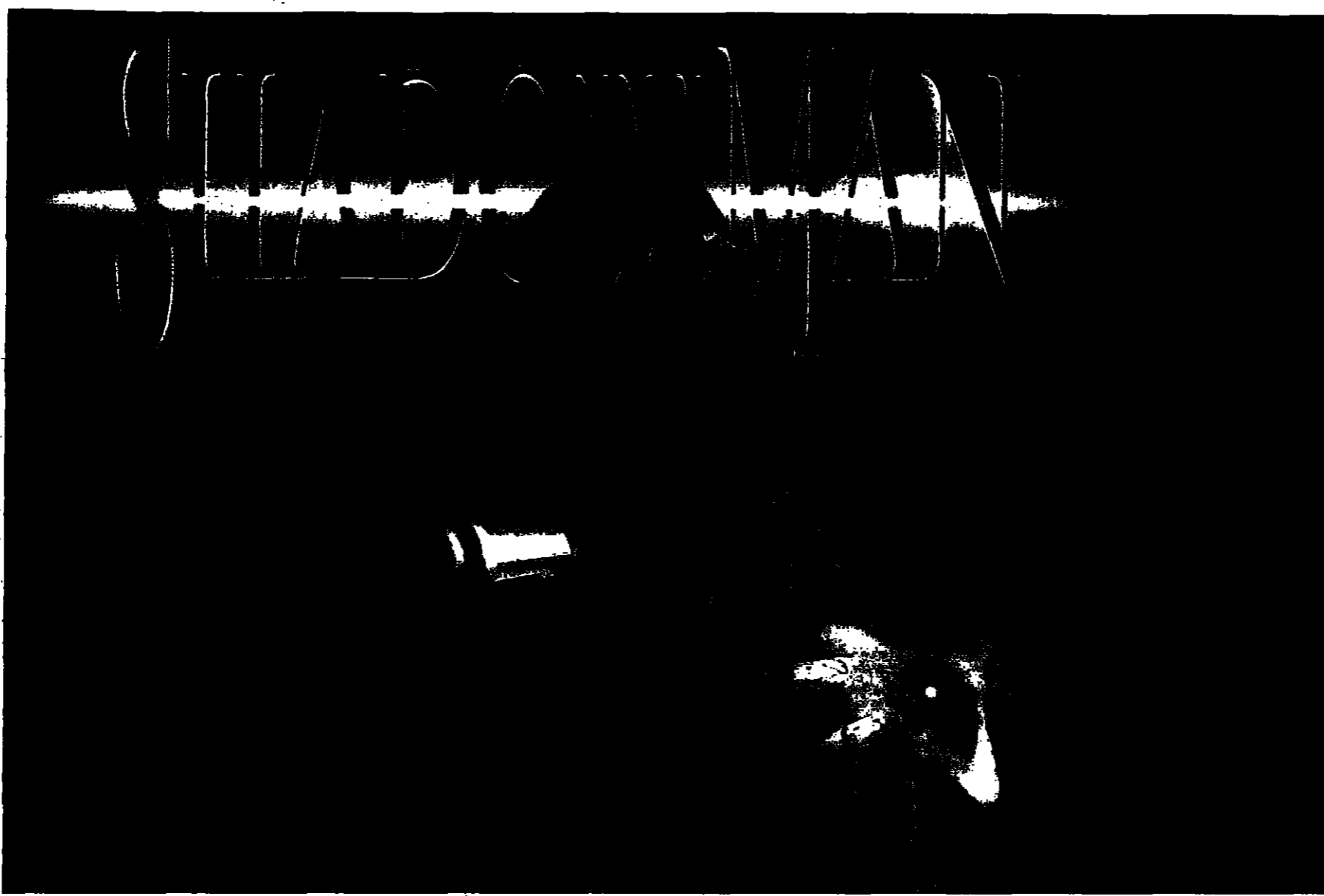
For an industry with a technology base that is turbo-driven by looking to the future, the gaming world - socially and culturally - is firmly stuck in the past.

While those who work on computer games are comprised of men and women from a range of cultural and religious backgrounds, any one browsing retailers' shelves would be forgiven for thinking the games' character creation was in the hands of some timewarped, 1950s small-town Americans.

But not only is Shadow Man shaking up the status quo, it's also expected to be a massive seller, perhaps even at Tomb Raider levels.

Created in the UK by Stockton-on-Tees-based Iguana Entertainment, Shadow Man is produced by the mighty United States company Acclaim, and will come with a suitably global marketing clout.

Like most cultural advances in commerce, however, Shadow Man isn't really about the industry doing the right thing - it's about hard cash. Games makers have suddenly woken to a fact that is common knowledge in the music and film worlds - most of their target audience want to be black.



"It seems to me that, right or not, at this moment in time, being black is somehow perceived as much 'cooler' than being white," explains Guy Miller, Iguana's creative director. "So it becomes an aspirational thing, with white kids aspiring to the perceived 'coolness' of certain parts of black culture. In my

opinion, as long as your hero meets the traditional archetype, it doesn't matter what colour he or she is."

And there's no doubt that Shadow Man will be the coolest game ever produced.

As well as making it thoroughly dazzling to play, Iguana's team also is going to unprecedented lengths to

ensure that Shadow Man is a style badge like the latest underground, white-label mix or the footwear du jour. Top-secret talks are currently being held with street-fashion labels including sunglasses manufacturers, a top jeans company, shirt makers and footwear companies so that the lead character of Shadow Man,

Mike LeRoi, will get an aspirational look, pitching him right at the cutting edge of popular culture.

At the same time, the team has been negotiating with various American groups for a soundtrack that will match any movie.

"We're getting rather Tarantino with the music by including sever-

al tracks from well-known artists in the game," Miller explains. "I think it is unusual to go to these lengths for a computer game, but if the games industry is going to be taken seriously as a form of mainstream entertainment, then we're going to have to go to these lengths."

Miller seems desperate to change

the established view that computer games are the sole province of the spotty-teenage nerd. He's a man with a mission - and that's to have his industry rubbing shoulders with movies and music.

"To be perfectly honest, I don't give a shit about the old-school gamer, the so-called 'hardcore' gamer. Shadow Man is a game for people with a life, in much the same way that most mainstream movies - or novels for that matter - are for people with lives."

"I'm not interested in making games for nerds and, yes, I believe that Shadow Man will appeal to the cooler, smarter, more stylish player, because this type of player has a bloody life outside of games."

Shadow Man is based on a cult-comic character who just happens to be dead. Immersed in the culture of New Orleans music and voodoo, he prowls the dividing line between the land of the living and "Deadside", stopping the more unsavoury characters - the serial killers and psychos - returning to wreak havoc on their old patches.

There's a significant technological leap forward to match the cultural one. All of the characters in Shadow Man will be motion-captured and will look realistic thanks to soft-skin techniques. There also will be neat tricks like real-time light sources. But the most exciting feature is Iguana UK's Vista (Virtually Integrated Scenic Terrain) game engine. For the first time, characters in a game will be able to walk to the horizon in a breathtakingly expansive outdoor landscape without bumping up against the false wall of the level's "room". Unusually, the game also is non-linear in structure. Most levels can be attempted in any order, although the player's choice makes the game easier or more difficult to complete.

All these things will guarantee Shadow Man is seen as a substantial advance for computer games.

If it has the expected impact it could open up a whole new market while making the games industry a serious and respected contender

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BT denies 'poach' claims

Oftel to investigate Internet sales. By Stephen Pritchard

IT IS A classic tale of the giant crushing the mouse in its enormous fists. BT, one of Britain's largest companies and, increasingly, a leading player in the Internet business, plays the giant. The mouse is CIX, a long-established but small Internet service provider used mostly by computer enthusiasts.

Last week, following reports in industry journal *IT Week*, BT admitted one of its telesales operators spotted calls to a CIX modem on a customer's list of discounted "friends and family" numbers. She then offered to send the customer a CD-Rom for BT's new pay-as-you-go Internet service, Click. BT concedes that the sales operator was wrong to do this, and she has been reprimanded.

However, the accusation is a serious one. BT could have a real advantage over rival Internet service providers if its Internet arm uses information from the phone business to market products and services.

"We are not allowed to do it and we know that and we don't make a practice of it," said David Pincott, public relations officer for BT Internet and Multimedia. "In this case, there clearly was an error, and one of our telesales people did mention the new Internet product, Click."

Mr Pincott believes the case is an isolated incident, the result of one member of staff overstepping the mark. "It doesn't happen very often and the procedures (to deal with it) are very robust," he says. "We investigated very, very quickly and we have briefed our telesales advisers that this sort of thing must not go on."

Oftel, the industry regulator, is investigating the case, but the Internet industry as a whole appears prepared to accept BT's stance - and its promises to prevent a repetition - at face value. "You have to accept the fact that sales staff are enthusiastic," said Richard Woods, public relations manager at the ISP UUNET. "If this is not their policy, it is good news."

The question is whether this was an isolated incident, as BT maintains, or part of a wider campaign. It is not the first time that the company has been accused of using customer information to steal a march on its competitors. Rupert Goodwins, the *IT Week* journalist who broke the story, says other readers have contacted the publication with similar experiences in the last week. "We have had four responses," he explains. "As far as we can tell, they're different salespeople."

Whether it is official policy or not, BT's rivals believe that cases of poaching and other dubious practices will come up when one company is so dominant in the marketplace. "As long as the dominant telecommunications company can provide these integrated applications, you will always be open to this type of abuse," said a spokeswoman for AOL. If it does, customers will be the losers, as smaller ISPs are squeezed from the marketplace.



Guerrino De Luca: 'If you think of Intel inside, everything outside the computer is us'

Neville Elder

De Luca's peripheral vision

Logitech's new CEO is determined change the image of 'the company that makes mice'. By Cliff Joseph

THE PRESS release describes Guerrino De Luca as "one of the most enigmatic CEOs in the industry". But that's just public relations-speak for "dark, Italian, and he doesn't come to the UK very often". He certainly doesn't look enigmatic posed with a plastic steering wheel clipped on top of a Victorian tea-table that probably isn't used to this sort of abuse.

The steering wheel - titled the WingMan Formula Force Racing System - is the latest product from Logitech, which is perhaps Europe's most successful manufacturer of computer peripherals. The firm has its marketing headquarters in California, but it was founded and still has its research and development operation in Switzerland.

De Luca was appointed president and the chief executive of Logitech six months ago and was visiting the UK to launch the WingMan and several other products at the recent ECTS trade show in London. To most computer owners, Logitech is just "the company that makes mice", which is like saying

Microsoft is just a company that makes software. Logitech makes 45 million mice yearly for the world's top 20 computer manufacturers, and if you've just bought one of Apple's new iMacs then your trendy green mouse was designed by Apple but built by Logitech.

'I had a great time at Claris, steering a medium-sized company to world-class level'

Its mouse and trackball business is worth about \$300m a year, and an assortment of keyboards, joysticks and other peripherals bring Logitech's annual business to more than \$400m. Logitech, however, has saturated the mouse market and De Luca's job is to figure out how to keep the firm growing. He may not look comfortable sitting in front of his WingMan steering wheel, but he does have a track

record of helping small companies get bigger.

De Luca began his career at Olivetti, where he worked his way through the ranks to become director of networking products. It was during his nine years at Apple Computer, however, that he joined the industry's big league. He led Apple's European operations through a period of strong growth in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Then he was appointed chief executive of Claris, Apple's independent software division.

"I had a great time at Claris steering a medium-sized company to world-class level," he beams, still not looking very enigmatic. He was certainly a success at Claris. While Apple began to head downhill in the mid-Nineties, De Luca turned the previously loss-making Claris into one of the world's top-10 software companies. His success at Claris left him untainted by the problems in the rest of Apple, and when the then-Apple chief executive Gil Amelio took the axe to his management team De Luca was appointed to the key position of executive vice-president for worldwide marketing.

At our last meeting, just over a

year ago, De Luca looked like a man heading for the top spot at Apple. Until, that is, Steve Jobs reappeared on the scene. De Luca was at Apple during the period when Jobs returned, first as a consultant to Amelio and then effectively acting as Amelio's executioner.

"That was interesting. We could do a separate interview on that," he says. Soon after Jobs' appointment as Apple's chief executive, De Luca resigned "to pursue other interests". At this point I was expecting him to become enigmatic at last, and to draw a discrete veil over the reason for his departure. But De Luca is completely open about it.

"Steve [Jobs] may be the greatest, most creative person on earth, but he's not a nice person to work with." His opinion of Jobs probably wasn't helped by the fact that Jobs dismantled Claris and absorbed most of it back into Apple. He acknowledges, though, that Jobs has done "a great job" of turning Apple around once more.

Apple's focus has always been on the user interface of its computers, and it was this experience that led De Luca to Logitech. When I refer to Logitech as "the mouse company, we prefer to think of Logitech as

being in the human interface field", De Luca says.

His plan is to expand Logitech's product range to encompass all sorts of peripherals that allow the user to interact with the computer. That includes keyboards, mice, joysticks, digital cameras, speakers,

'Steve Jobs may be the most creative person on Earth, but he's not a nice person to work with'

and the slightly bizarre WingMan with its sensory feedback mechanism that stimulates the vibrations and responses of a real car. "If you think of Intel inside, everything outside the computer is us," he says.

His first few months have been busy. He wound up Logitech's unsuccessful attempt to get into the scanner market and then spent \$25m buying the popular QuickCam digital camera range from the

smaller Connectix Corporation. The popularity of the Internet has created a big market for digital cameras, and this is an area that De Luca wants Logitech to control in the same way that it now controls the mouse market.

The WingMan and Logitech's joystick range are aimed at the games market, and De Luca hopes to move beyond the computer market to produce equipment to use with games consoles and television set-top boxes. "The market today is worth about \$2bn. Move beyond that, to consoles and set-top boxes, and it's worth five times as much."

For the future, Logitech is looking into new technologies such as biometrics and speech recognition. It's even developing a 3D mouse - a fixed device containing a hand-grip that you can move in three dimensions. But one thing De Luca wants to steer clear of is virtual reality.

"We've looked at that sort of thing, but it's not mainstream enough. We have no plans for goggles or headsets."

That's probably just as well. After all, it's hard to look enigmatic with a virtual-reality headset balanced on your head.

The things Janet won't tell you

THE ART of censorship is sometimes practised by the most unlikely authorities. Recently, a student at a prestigious British university put up a home page on Janet (Joint Academic Network) promoting the Kurdish Freedom Movement. This didn't go down very well with his Turkish adversaries, who immediately threatened the university with an e-mail bomb campaign, hack attack and other things that could easily bring the university network down.

Under pressure to protect the network's reliability, the university's technical supervisors decided to censor the Web site and pulled the plug. Although this was very much a pragmatic decision taken in the context of the need to service the majority of users, it is nevertheless intriguing that the mechanics of this new era of censorship are based on technical, rather than moral, reasons.

In this case, the individual responsible for the network reliability took a decision that appeared to be optimal for serving other Janet users. Since the

resources needed to fight the threat were expensive and not easily available (Janet is run on a very thin shoestring), there was simply no alternative but to stop the Web site being available on the Internet to a wider audience, despite the fact that Kurdish Freedom Movement is perfectly legal in the UK.

In the end, the student resorted to printing old-fashioned newsletters and photocopying them for physical distribution. Since his Turkish opponents didn't think about threatening the life of the photocopyer located in the student union, the leaflets found their way safely into students' hands. Looking at the copies made me feel nostalgic for the times when, many years ago, I smuggled similar home-made Solidarity leaflets in Poland. It is disappointing that in the Wired Age such primitive methods are still in use due to a lack of resources.

The censoring of the Kurdish site is yet another example of the "sanitising" of the Internet. Only a few years ago, students could freely use newsgroups, mailing lists, publish Web sites on progressive and

radical ideas, while practising their debating skills and learning the art of electronic democracy. Debates ranged from supporting the Kurds, to condemning the Serbs, raising awareness of AIDS or planning the demise of the Tories. All topics were acceptable, and occasional bad or aggressive language didn't seem to hurt anybody's feelings. Today, though, the "acceptable use policy" for Janet forbids not only swear words but even masking (***ing) or, to be really picky, rotating (jwbobo) bad language.

This is probably appropriate for nursery Web sites, but are we really saying that students in their daily debates must be limited to the Queen's English? That is a minor matter, but another policy guideline that forbids posting anything that may cause "anxiety" is certainly going too far in Janet's attempt at muzzling students. You can't have a good debate without high adrenaline, and if we want graduates who have fully developed critical thinking and debating skills, then there isn't any better way to practice them than on the Net. They will get plenty of muzzling on corporate Web sites once they get a job in the real world.

The real issue of Janet is one of funding. Students could get a lot more out of it if our universities had budgets for decent security, high-class firewalls and enough staff to deal with threats from hackers or obscure e-terrorists. A debate needs to take place on what role the Internet should play at universities. One wonders if the best we can afford for our students is merely a medium for archiving old academic papers. No debating, no

heated exchanges, no controversial Web sites. It may be not a conspiracy theory but simply a survival plan by Janet's technical support. However, the question must be asked if this techno-driven censorship is our vision of academic cyberspace? The answer can only be arrived at by developing a consensus on the potential limits to free speech and students' abilities to address controversial issues. Perhaps it's time to bite the bullet and admit that the world of the written word is not black and white. Technical support people being left to make moral or ethical decisions can only limit the use of the Internet as a tool for electronic democracy. Let's take the example of Yahoo, and its decision to publish the Starr report despite the fact that it wasn't exactly "family reading material".

History is not always politically correct, and if we don't have the stomach to take the raw reality, then perhaps we deserve to have the underdeveloped graduates we most surely will get.

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- Ensuring systems can cope with the event's requirements and that any enhancements/modifications are requested from developers (whether internal or external) in sufficient time to be tested
- Agreeing (in conjunction with the rest of the IT department) the event's timetable where it relates to data
- Producing ad-hoc reports as and when required by the events.

They will be expected to quickly gain a complete understanding of the business processes and the event management system.

Candidate Profile

The successful candidate will have good data manipulation/analysis skills and a fine attention to detail. They must be familiar with Microsoft Office products, in particular Microsoft Access and exposure to Paradox and Crystal Reports would be an advantage. They will be able to manage their own time and have good communication skills, both written and verbal.

The ideal candidate will probably be in their first position following University and will be working in a support role. They will have shown an aptitude in working with Access and data and enjoy both responsibility and close liaison with an end-user community. They are now looking for a new challenge that recognises their personal development since graduating and will enjoy working in a high-pressure environment with a close knit and demanding user base.



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MY TECHNOLOGY

Heard and not seen

OMD's Andy McCluskey sings the praises of the humble loudspeaker

The oft-neglected loudspeaker, the humble loudspeaker. I probably have a lot of common with most people when it comes to technology or machinery - I am happy to use it, but I don't know how it works. It's something to do with magnets, coils and vibrating cones.

Effectively, speakers have remained the same since they were invented but the technology that drives them and puts the sound in them has changed again and again. The basic principle works, but they have modified and improved; it will always look the same and act the same.

We all know that aircraft have transformed life, but they are so huge you can't miss them. The humble loudspeaker has been overlooked in the roll call of life achievements. If you pardon the pun, 'let's hear it for the loudspeaker'.

The speaker in itself is not a very sexy object to look at. These days they compensate through being over-designed boom boxes, from ghetto blasters to fancy-fronted grill devices, you never see the speaker you are listening to.

Loudspeakers are available in any number of watts. Speakers with thousands and thousands of watts are the big black box ones at the side of the stage which obscure your view. Without them you wouldn't hear ear-snarling guitar and thumping bass.

To see a PA crew set up in a venue and hear them sound-check the speakers is frightening; it sounds like a tornado coming through your head. One of the interesting things about every speaker is it's a bit like a pair of glasses - it actually distorts reality.

Every speaker has a different frequency response. In the studio one of the biggest problems when doing a mix is whether to trust the speakers. It's a mundane job, but you have to rely and trust that the speakers are even, otherwise you can get an over-flattering or an unflattering picture of the sound.

The problem is made worse because every studio sounds different. It's like how every person's stereo sounds different. I always cringe when I hear my music for the first time in the real world after spending time in the studio. But short of everyone setting up their stereo to the same bass and treble, it is inevitable.

What we do is think most people listen to music with the loudness as a priority, full boost bass and full boost top. It's not the way you make it in the studio, but you vary it on those lines. In a studio a lot of people consciously mix on not very good speakers. Their theory is if you can make it sound good on those then it will sound



Andy McCluskey: 'every speaker's a bit like a pair of glasses, it actually distorts reality'

Philip Meech

good on everyone else's. But if you do it on a super dooper one you have no idea. It amazes me.

I go into a top studio and they are checking the sound on a crappy speaker. It's a real reality check, what it will sound like on the road. But it's such a contrast to all the money and technology in the studio that the acid test is what it will

sound like on a crap system. But I don't really worry myself about that. I hate being in recording studios. It's like pulling teeth for me to start anything. I have 94 different tracks of sound and 124 different other instruments available through a midi-controller.

I use my computer every day for writing songs. I didn't used to, but it's so common nowadays that most music is computer-generated, apart from guitar music. With the advent of samplers it means you can play anything. I have 94 different tracks of sound and 124 different other instruments available through a midi-controller.

It's just scary how the technology for making music has changed. When we started, the synthesiser sound was cutting edge. Everything was played by hand. Our first hit was played on a synthesiser bought from Kay's catalogue. So much for cutting edge.

'OMD - The OMD Singles' (Virgin) will be released on 28 September

used to, but it's so common nowadays that most music is computer-generated, apart from guitar music. With the advent of samplers it means you can play anything. I have 94 different tracks of sound and 124 different other instruments available through a midi-controller.

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An open and shut case for frames

ONE COMPLAINT I hear about frames is that they monopolise screen space by placing menus and titles permanently on the screen. While this may be fine if you have a large monitor with plenty of room, those with smaller monitors can be turned off by the experience.

However, if you have worked in any type of windows environment before, you will notice that there are usually ways to open and close different "panes" in the window, to allow maximum space for important information by minimising the size of elements, such as navigation, when they are not needed. Why should the Web be any different?

I want to show you a technique I developed using nested framesets and some JavaScript that allows you to open and close a menu in a frame. When the menu is closed, the content area of the window can use as much of the space as needed. Check out <http://www.webdesignenvironments.com/examples/37.html> if you have any problems and to see what this looks like.

First, we have to set up our main frameset, called index.html:

```
<HTML>
<frameset rows="50,"
  <frame name="menuButton" src="menuButton.html" scrolling="no"
  <frame name="content" src="nomenu_frames.html"
  </frameset>
</HTML>
```

This sets up two rows, one with the file menuButton.html in the frame called menuButton, and the other with a nested frameset called nomenu_frames.html in the frame called content.

Next, we set up two almost identical documents: nomenu_frames.html

```
<HTML>
<frameset cols="1,"
  <frame name="menu"
  </frameset>
</HTML>
```

```
and menu_frames.html:
<HTML>
<frameset cols="150,"
  <frame name="menu"
  </frameset>
</HTML>
```

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

Minimise the size of elements when they are not needed

```
src="menu.html"
marginwidth="10"
marginheight="10"
scrolling="no"
frameborder="no" noresize>
  <frame name="content2"
  </frame>
  </frameset>
</HTML>
```

Both of these set up a frameset with two columns, and the second column, called content2, contains a document called content.html. The first frame, however, differs in size and content. The first version is one pixel wide and uses a filler document. The second (which will contain our menu) is 150 pixels wide and uses the file menu.html. Visitors will be switching back and forth between these two framesets depending on whether they want the menu open or not.

Now we need to set up the link that will turn the menu on and off. This file is called menuButton.html:

```
<HTML>
<HEAD>
<SCRIPT
LANGUAGE="JavaScript">
var frameState = 0;
var contentSRC = null;
function menuToggle() {
  if (frameState == 0) {
    contentSRC =
      parent.content.content2.location;
    open("menu_frames.html",
      contentSRC);
    frameState = 1;
    return;
  } else {
    contentSRC =
      parent.content.content2.location;
    open("nomenu_frames.html",
      contentSRC);
    frameState = 0;
    return;
  }
}
</SCRIPT>
```

```
<BODY
BGCOLOR="#000000"
link="white" vlink="silver">
  <A HREF=
  "javascript:menuToggle();" Me
  nu></A>
</BODY>
</HTML>
```

The function menuToggle is the meat of this page and is executed when a visitor clicks on the Menu link. It first checks to see what HTML document is currently loaded into the content2 frame and stores that in the variable contentSRC. It then checks to see whether the menu is visible or not, and switches the frameset to either nomenu_frames.html or menu_frames.html accordingly.

Finally we set up the document content.html: <HTML><HEAD> <SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript"> var contentSRC; function replaceContent() { contentSRC = top.menuButton.contentSRC; if (contentSRC == null) { self.open("welcome.html", "self"); } else { self.open(contentSRC, "self"); } } </SCRIPT>

```
<HEAD><BODY
BGCOLOR="#ffffff"
ONLOAD="replaceContent();"
</BODY></HTML>
```

This document is only an intermediary step and never stays on the screen for long. It checks what document was previously loaded into the content2 frame by accessing the variable in the menuButton frame that recorded it (contentSRC), and then reloads that document into itself. If there was no previous source (ie, when it first loads) it defaults to loading welcome.html. You should target all links to the frame content2.

The upshot of this is that a visitor to your site can open or close the navigation menu without losing their place within the site. One caveat to this: due to a security restriction in both Navigator and Internet Explorer you cannot open or close the menu when the content2 frame has a document from a server other than the one that your web pages are coming off of, so no nesting of external content in your frames.

Thanks to Ben Fisher for helping me to perfect this technique. E-mail me at indy_webdesign@mindspring.com

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FUND

ICT TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDER STATUS

The Government has allocated £230 million of lottery revenue to the New Opportunities Fund (NOF) to support ICT training for teachers and school librarians in the UK.

This is a tremendous opportunity to make a real difference to standards of pupils' achievements. Training for school teachers will ensure that they have the confidence and competence necessary to make effective use of ICT in subject teaching. Training for school librarians will enable them to harness the potential of ICT to support their contribution to raising school standards. This initiative looks to bring together the very best practice from industry and education to secure the highest quality training and development in this crucial area.

Training can begin from April 1999 and the initiative is likely to end in 2002.

In order to be approved as a training provider, and therefore to be eligible for funding from NOF, providers must demonstrate their ability to enable teachers and/or school librarians to meet defined outcomes of the training. Training providers must have an outstanding track record in providing innovative training and development. The Teacher Training Agency will advise NOF on approvals in England and Wales. There is a separate process of approval in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, but using the same UK-wide specifications. Training providers may apply for approval to provide training for teachers and/or school librarians in any or all of the UK countries.

If you would like to play an important part in preparing our schools for the 21st century, please phone 0845 606 0323 or email publications@ttal.co.uk for a copy of either the teachers' specification, or the school librarians' specification, or both. Pre-tendering information meetings will be held for England in London on 30 September 1998 and in York on 1 October 1998, for Northern Ireland in Belfast on 7 October 1998, for Scotland in Glasgow on 2 October 1998, and for Wales in Cardiff on 5 October 1998. Details of these meetings will be sent out with the specifications.

The deadline for receipt of applications for approval is 20 November 1998.



WEB SITES

BILL PANNIFER

Celebration of a band still standing

Musical prankster sampling

<http://www.negativeand.com>

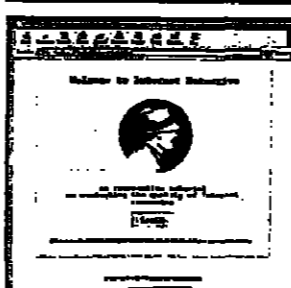
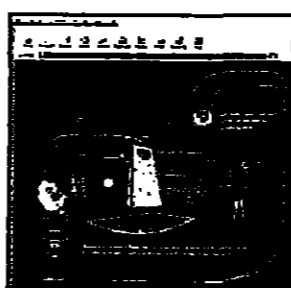
The reassuring aroma of home cooking wafts from the title page, with its apple pies, scones, pancakes and general air of domesticity. However, we are not baking, but sampling. Among the crusty leaves lurk musical and conceptual pranksters Negativeand, whose career has been a series of well-publicised stand-offs with the music industry over copyright and "fair use" issues. The band emerges victorious from the most recent tiff, with US record companies giving more freedom to CD pressing plants to discriminate between creative sampling and plain piracy. Details, too, of Negativeand's latest album, described as "40 minutes of instrumental junk noise music". Other thrills include Pastor Dick's Jukebox, which serves up scrambled and stuttering mixes of works by Dylan and Olivia Newton John.

Internet detective <http://sosig.ac.uk/desire/> Internet-detective.html This online tutorial offers a

stage-by-stage evaluation of

"content, form and process" in a Web site, and is aimed both at users and creators of Web pages. The methodical, sometimes obvious approach usefully opens up the intuitive assessments we apply when arriving at a URL for the first time. The detective inhabits the Institute for Learning and Research Technology at the University of Bristol. Meanwhile, at the less-well-known Fork University (Fork U for short), a more radical solution for displeasing sites is offered, at <http://www.forkinthehead.com>. A Fork-O-gram may be e-mailed to the owner of a below-par site, with added specific complaints about broken links, malfunctioning applets and general tackiness. This rather direct and pictorially violent critique is intended to improve standards across the Web, and reduce the occurrence of what it calls "unhappy eyeballs".

Patent Place <http://www.patentplace.com> An interactive online soap opera, offering a brightly coloured Shockwave-fest of



cut-throat office politics and debates around biotechnology. Animated participants include Di Agnostic ("clever, ambitious and never misses a shot in the gender war"), Paul E. Clone, Gene One and others. Any further lack of subtlety may be blamed on us, the viewers, since the plot is constructed on a weekly basis by visitors to the site. Dialogue for each character

can be mailed in using a form with a cheerfully reductive emotional range of five expressions (anxious, angry, explaining, happy or upset). Submissions are then vetted by web designers KMP, whose calling-card this is, before being added as the next episode. As well as the usual plea for sponsorship, the site invites movie-style product placement and set décor options, for brand name promotion within the drama. The minuscule text on the title page is, however, in need of a good fork.

Rock'em Sock'em Robots <http://www.fest.com/~jensen/decorations/Game/sockdem.html> Cathartic for some, regressive for most, more Shockwave'd fun featuring two distinctly retro robots fighting it out on screen. Two players can crowd one keyboard and instruct the rather endearing little men in a limited range of fighting strategies. Injuries seem restricted to temporary decapitation. This one is from the toybox.

The Household Cyclopaedia <http://members.xoom.com/mspong/>

A Complete And Practical Library in All The Useful and Domestic Arts, printed in Philadelphia but picked up more than 100 years later for \$10 in a Sydney market, and now lovingly reassembled on the Net. Webmeister Matthew Spong has spent months painstakingly feeding it to his scanner and the result is a sort of 19th-century portal to all knowledge. An alphabetical index will lead to An Instrument for Writing Two Letters at Once; details on Making Artificial Red Coral Branches for the Embellishment of Grottoes; an Elixir To Remedy the Effects of Dram Drinking; How to Cure Hog Cholera, and, if you are very lucky, how to remedy the bite of a mad dog (using turpentine). A sometimes too vivid account of the vicissitudes of existence in 1881, with recipes and innocuous household tips paling beside the matter-of-fact horror of the amputation section.

Send interesting, quirky or even, at a pinch, cool site recommendations to websites@discom.co.uk

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Application forms and further particulars are available from the

Director of Operations Office, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, telephone Milton Keynes (01908) 652328. There is also an after hours

answering service on Milton Keynes (01908) 652980. Access details may be obtained from

Brenda Clements on Milton Keynes (01908) 652064.

Closing date for applications: 2nd October 1998.



Disabled applicants whose skills and experience meet the requirements of the job will be interviewed. Please let us know if you need your copy of the further particulars in large print, on computer disk, or on audio cassette tape. Hearing impaired persons may make enquiries on Milton Keynes (01908) 654901 (Minicom answerphone).

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£35K-£45K + BONUS

Leading Securities House require a bright Developer with solid VBA skills. Based in the Front Office, you will work closely with traders building risk management systems and providing VAR tools. The successful candidate must be a strong communicator and possess the desire to develop both their technical and business skills. Preference will be given to candidates who have a strong academic background and have previous knowledge of the trading room environment.



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Call The Natwest Free Registration Service: 0800 854 369

or Register on Line - <http://www.mba.org.uk/reg>.

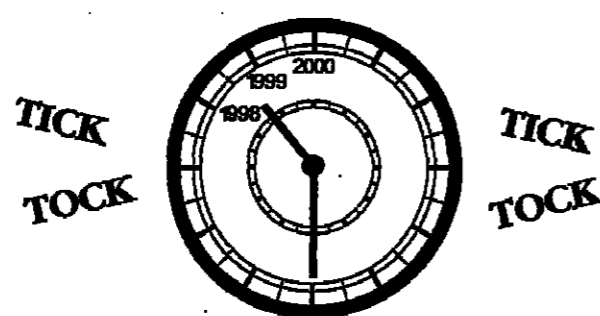
The Independent will be supplying a special MBA supplement at the Fair and in the paper on Thursday the 22nd of October.

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Dept. of Health Payscale: IP3 Std II (£16,250 - £30,950), Additional Pay Allowance £5,000

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You will be responsible for advising all Health Authorities and Primary Care organisations in South Thames on millennium issues. This is an excellent career opportunity for an ambitious IT professional with experience of project management. You will also need a sound grasp of IM&T issues, and knowledge of the health service would be desirable.

Dept. of Health Payscale: IP2 Std (£13,400 - £19,850), Additional Pay Allowance £5,000

Both posts are offered on a contract/secondment basis which will initially run until the Year 2000 with the possibility of extension past 1 January 2000. Excellent career and development opportunities may also be available for the right candidates. South Thames Regional Office is located in London W2.

For an information pack providing more detail on these exciting opportunities please call our 24 hour recruitment request line on 0171 725 2656 quoting the relevant reference.

Should you wish to discuss the posts informally please feel free to call Robin Morphet, Assistant Director IM&T or David Green, Senior Adviser - IM&T Strategy on 0171 725 2780/2589.

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**UCAS**

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Based in Cheltenham, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is responsible for processing some 450,000 applications to universities and colleges every year, as well as having flourishing research, development and publishing departments.

ANALYST/PROGRAMMERS (2)

Ref: ITa

The expanding development team is currently in the process of enhancing existing data collection and internal database systems. Both positions will provide opportunities for updating skills in the latest web technologies. The successful candidates will have at least one year's experience in several of the following: RDBMS - (preferably Informix); 4GL/SQL; UNIX/NT; and full project life cycle. Experience of GUI development/JAVA would be useful.

YEAR 2000 OFFICER (2 YEAR CONTRACT)

Ref: ITb

The key task of the post is to project manage UCAS' move to Year 2000 compliance and will involve identifying areas where UCAS is at risk, producing documentation, training, test criteria and implementation. Working within a small team, you will need excellent interpersonal skills and a thorough grounding in technical areas. Knowledge of Windows and UNIX operating systems is essential, in addition to relational databases and systems analysis.

INTRANET DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (18 MONTH CONTRACT)

Ref: ITc

This new post will be responsible for the development of an intranet project from specification through to solution. It is anticipated that this exciting project will form an integral part of the management and planning processes within UCAS. It is likely that the successful applicant will be a graduate with experience in the delivery of management information. Project management skills, technical competence and managerial expertise is required. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are essential.

For all of the above, we offer salaries in the range of £18,559 to £22,523 per annum (scale currently under review) and attractive terms and conditions of employment.

Letters of application, stating which vacancy/ies you are interested in, including a CV and the names of two work-related referees, should state where you saw the advertisement and be sent to the Personnel Department, UCAS, Fulton House, Jessop Avenue, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 3SH, to reach us by 2 October 1998.

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NEW FILMS

CHARACTER (15)

Director: Mike van Diem
Starring: Jan Decker, Freda van Huet (subtitles)
Mike van Diem's intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal and revenge won this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film, and it certainly comes with what the Academy adores: a solid story, spanning a considerable timescale and confidently told. The picture is never as gripping as it should have been, though the foreboding Gothic gloom sits nicely with the grotesque compositions.
West End: Curzon Mayfair

THE DOOM GENERATION (18)

Director: Gregg Araki
Starring: James Duval, Rose McGowan
Gregg Araki continues his investigation of apocalyptic, modern America with this gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Fun for the first half-hour, deadening for the rest.
West End: ABC Piccadilly

KISSING A FOOL (15)

Director: Doug Elton
Starring: David Schwimmer, Jason Lee, Mili Avital
Yet another comedy about the male fear of commitment. David Schwimmer plays a television sportscaster who falls in love with his best friend's editor (Mili Avital). But insecurity intrudes on their wedding plans until the groom-to-be feels compelled to test his love's loyalty.
West End: Virgin Trocadero

LETHAL WEAPON 4 (15)

Director: Richard Donner
Starring: Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, Rene Russo, Chris Rock
The poster copy for this latest instalment of the ingratiating comedy-thriller series says it all: "The action you expect, the faces you love." This time, Detectives Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are up against Triads in the counterfeiting trade, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age. The screenplay

acknowledges that this pair are not as nimble as they used to be, and makes room for a ripe new comic talent, the young actor Chris Rock.
West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Rd, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, HammerSmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOVE IS THE DEVIL (18)

Director: John Maybury
Starring: Derek Jacobi, Daniel Craig, Tilda Swinton
See *The Independent* recommends, right
West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill

MEN WITH GUNS (HOMBRES ARMADOS) (15)

Director: John Sayles
Starring: Federico Luppi, Damian Delgado, Tania Cruz (subtitles)
John Sayles follows his biggest success (*Lone Star*) with this conscientious drama about a doctor who discovers that each of his previous students has met with a grisly end in an unspecified Latin American country. Sayles airs some intriguing ideas, but he seems consistently unable to animate any of them.
West End: Metro, Rio Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road

PEPE LE MOKO (15)

Director: Julien Duvivier
Starring: Jean Gabin, Mireille Balin (subtitles)
Long-overdue revival of this tender thriller, with Jean Gabin as the underworld hero prowling the kasbah. There are shades here of what would flourish into film noir, but the driving force is the characters' need to escape, whether it is Algiers or simply the past from which they are fleeing.
West End: National Film Theatre

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

Film Ryan Gilbey

DEREK JACOBI gives a ferocious performance as Francis Bacon in *Love is the Devil*, the first feature from the experimental film-maker John Maybury. The picture focuses on the artist's love-affair with the East End hard-man George Dyer (Daniel Craig, left). Through this relationship, issues of power and control, sadism and masochism (by which the artist's social, as well as sexual, life was characterised) are explored. Being denied the use of Bacon's art has forced Maybury to be resourceful, and among the film's many technical accomplishments are the grotesque visual compositions which transform simple images into thrashing flesh-storms which strongly evoke the artist's work.

Screened tonight as part of a season devoted to the late Cubby Broccoli, producer of the James Bond films, Goldfinger is such a leisurely, almost lethargic, thriller that it feels like an antidote to the relentless assault on the senses dished up by modern equivalents.
National Film Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 3232) 8.45pm

Theatre Dominic Cavendish

PETER HALLS revival of *Major Barbara* (below) - Bernard Shaw's headstrong drama about arms and humanity - lights up the play's topicality without any difficulty. Peter Bowles stars as Andrew Undershaft, the arms manufacturer who can blow moral scruples to smithereens, and Gemma Redgrave is his idealistic daughter, Barbara. Piccadilly Theatre, London W1 (0171-369 7344) 7.45pm
Opening tonight is *Une Tempête*, French-West Indian writer Aimé Césaire's wry reconstruction of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which looks in particular at Prospero's abused servants, Ariel and Caliban. It marks the directorial debut of Mick Gordon, who has just joined the Gate as artistic director.
Gate Theatre, London W11 (0171-229 0766) 7.30pm

Comedy James Rampton

JOHN OSBORNE once called Ben Elton "an irredeemably pleased-with-himself, foot-in-the-door comic". But he was a long way off the mark, far from being the "suing git in the shiny suit" of popular myth, Elton just dazzles with the speed and sharpness of his delivery. He headlines an impressive bill for "An Evening of Comedy" which also features Steve Coogan (right); the king of the one-liners, Tim Vine; and the always amusing and acerbic Stewart Lee. The show is a benefit in aid of Children on the Edge, which helps youngsters from Romanian orphanages.
Brighton Dome, E Sussex (01273 709709) tonight
Do you ever yearn for the kitsch 1970s world of Baccoli jumpsuits and "Calling Occupants of Interplanetary Craft"? Then Jackie Clune's camp new show, *It's Jackie!*, is for you.
Drill Hall, London WC1 (0171-637 8270) 7.30pm



Art Richard Ingleby

SUSAN DERGESS's extraordinary photographs in her show *The River* reveal the natural world as it has never been seen before - a view from a riverbed looking up through the water. They are beautiful and mesmerising pictures which confirm her place as one of the most skilled and imaginative photographers working in Britain today.
Newlyn Art Gallery, Newlyn, Cornwall (01736-363715) to 24 Oct
Jonathan Miller's first role as an exhibition curator, with *Mirror Image: Jonathan Miller on Reflection* (above), has resulted in a shimmering show on the theme of reflection. Painted light plays across all manner of shiny surfaces as Velázquez, Van Dyck, Matisse and Freud are called into the debate between appearance and reality. Plenty of old favourites.
The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (0171-747 2885) to 13 Dec



GENERAL RELEASE

ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. West End: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE AVENGERS (12)

Ralph Fiennes does the bowler hat as Steed, Uma Thurman pours herself into a catsuit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery plans to take over the world. West End: Warner Village West End

BABYMOOTHER (15)

An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and douses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Anika Lauren Smith), a "baby-mother" who longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her children.
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

LE BOSSU (15)

This sumptuous swashbuckler doesn't break much new ground, but is acted and shot with magnificent bravado. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon, Minerva

COUSIN BETTE (15)

Balzac's novel about romance and deception is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy. Jessica Lange plays Bette, the housekeeper who inadvertently weaves a web of betrayal around everyone she knows. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

Worried that her husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find the whole family accompanying her to Manhattan to confront him. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Rio Cinema

DR DOLITTLE (PG)

Dr Dolittle proves that Eddie Murphy's talents are surprisingly pliable within the constraints of a PG certificate. West End: HammerSmith, Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Rites-of-passage drama that feels for the most part like reheated *Fried Green Tomatoes*. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero

HE GOT GAME (18)

Denzel Washington plays a man doing time for the murder of his wife who is offered a deal which could cut short his sentence if he can persuade his basketball star son to sign up with the Governor's alma mater. Spike Lee coaxes an impressive performance from Washington, but it is his own stylistic excesses which are the film's undoing. West End: Clapham Picture House, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

GANG RELATED (15)

A new thriller which gives a few welcome twists to the formulaic routine of drive-by shootings and five-talking homeboys. James Belushi is spectacularly sleazy. West End: Virgin Trocadero

GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up *Stargate* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. Unfortunately, on this occasion, their light touch has deserted them. West End: Empire Leicester Square

THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans' novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who realises in equine psychology and who agrees to help Kristin Scott Thomas whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident. HammerSmith, Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Rachel Weisz, Anna Friel and Catherine McCormack are the "land girls" called upon in the Second World War to pick up the ploughs discarded by their men. Nothing surprising here - sexual awakening, broad laughs, a smattering of tragedy - but very nicely done. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

Whit Stillman does a fine job of capturing the mixture of flat, invigoration and uncertainty by which any burgeoning trend is characterised and it's refreshing to find a work that is this enchanting and intelligent. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Panton Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

This follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino but the film's defining characteristic is its resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs, both amateur and professional. Young Eddy who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former; but Hatched Harry, to whom he owes \$500,000, is an old-school pro. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, HammerSmith, Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN (15)

In Spielberg's Second World War drama, Captain John Miller (Tom Hanks) is dispatched with his squad on a compassionate mission to seek out a young private behind enemy lines and return him home to safety. It is unlikely that many viewers will emerge from the picture warmed by emotional catharsis - it is the harsh, devastating battle sequences which are branded on the memory. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle, Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, HammerSmith, Virgin, Notting Hill, Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

David Mamet's intricate thriller is a playful exercise in twisting a plot until it looks; there is a scientific detachment about the way he explores every permutation of his Kafkaesque scenario, though the movie is also stily funny. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

SPECIES II (18)

Ludicrous science-fiction horror about a strand of alien DNA carried back to earth in the bodies of astronauts. West End: Plaza, Virgin Trocadero

LA VIE DE JESUS (THE LIFE OF JESUS) (NC)

Bruno Dumont's brilliant debut feature is set in a desolate, lifeless town in northern France where a group of twentysomething friends rattle around on their motorbikes. West End: ICA Cinema

THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Unashamedly dumb but very winning comedy about a romantic singer (Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find she's already engaged to someone else. West End: Odeon Mezzanine

THE X-FILES (15)

Duchovny and Anderson engagingly reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully in their first big-screen outing. The two leads are most engaging, conveying great tenderness through little dialogue and even less facial movement. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870-9020418) @ Baker Street The Last Days of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-9020404) @ Piccadilly Circus The Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.40pm, 7.45pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322 from 1pm) @ Piccadilly Circus The Doom Generation 1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm Lolita 3.10pm, 8pm Love And Death On Long Island 1.05pm, 6pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE

(0870-9020402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Hamlet 1.15pm, 3.45pm The X-Files 12.50pm, 3.20pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-9020403) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus Le Bossu 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Daytrippers 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm Deconstructing Harry 6.10pm, 8.40pm Gaflo Dilo 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 5.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-9020414) @ Tottenham Court Road Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) @ Moorgate/Barbican Lane The Devil 6.15pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 2pm, 5pm, 8.15pm

CHELSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square Lethal Weapon 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-490 8323) @ Clapham Common He Got Game 4pm, 5pm Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm The Spanish Prisoner 1.15pm, 6.40pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 7720) @ Green Park Character 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

ELEPHANT & CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle Lethal Weapon 4 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square British Short Film Festival phone 0990 888995 for details Godzilla 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 4pm, 6pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate Love Is the Devil 2.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-9070718) @ Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith The Horse Whisperer 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.15pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

ICA CINEMA

(0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross The Panic In Needle Park 6.30pm, 8.30pm The Trip 8.45pm La Vie De Jesus 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

METRO

(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square Love Is the Devil 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Men With Guns 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CURZON MINIMA

(0171-369 7723) @ Knightsbridge La Bossu 3.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.45pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0181-315 4229) @ Camden Town Cousin Bette 6.15pm The Last Days of Disco 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.50pm Lethal Weapon 4 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm The X-Files 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0181-315 4212) @ Piccadilly Circus Cousin Bette 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0181-315 4214) @ High Street Kensington Cousin Bette 7pm The Horse Whisperer 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8.35pm The Last Days of Disco 12.40pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.45pm, 4.25pm, 7.05pm, 9.45pm Saving Private Ryan 1.25pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm The X-Files 12.50pm, 3.45pm, 9.35pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square The Horse Whisperer 12.50pm, 4.15pm, 7.50pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0181-315 4216) @ Marble Arch Armageddon 1.35pm, 5.15pm, 8.45pm The Horse Whisperer 1.35pm, 5.10pm, 8.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.15pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.55pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm Saving Private Ryan 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0181-315 4215) @ Leicester Square Eve's Bayou 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm The Last Days of Disco 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm, 10.50pm, 12.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm He Got Game 1.40pm, 5pm, 8pm Kissing A Fool 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.40pm, 12.40pm, 3.10pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm The X-Files 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm, 1.15pm, 4.45pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0181-315 4216) @ Swiss Cottage Armageddon 2.55pm, 6pm Cousin Bette 12.25pm, 6pm The Horse Whisperer 12.30pm, 4.05pm, 7.45pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.40pm The Spanish Prisoner 1.15pm, 6.40pm

ODEON WEST END

(0181-315 4221) @ Leicester Square Gaflo Dilo 1.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Love Is the Devil 1pm, 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm

PHOENIX CINEMA

(0181-444 6789) @ East Finchley Lane Is the Devil 2.45pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

PLAZA

(0990-888990) @ Piccadilly Circus The Castle 6.05pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.30pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 3.15pm, 7.15pm Sliding Doors 1pm, 3.25pm, 8.25pm Species II 1pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

RENOIR

(0171-837 8402) @ Russell Square Gaflo Dilo 1.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Love Is the Devil 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.55pm, 6.55pm, 9pm

RIO CINEMA

(0171-254 6577) @ Dalston Kingsland Lane With Guns 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

RITZY CINEMA

(0171-733 2229) @ Brxton Aguirre, Wrath of God 3.40pm (+ Short: The Rules of Engagement at 1.50pm) (+ Fitzcarraldo at 1.50pm) Babymother 3.45pm, 5.35pm, 7.30pm, 9.20pm Un Coeur En Hiver 1.40pm The Last Days of Disco 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm (+ Short: Shave Like You Mean It) Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2.20pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm, 12.20pm Love Is the Devil 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

(0171-935 2772) @ Baker Street The Horse Whisperer 3.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 6.40pm, 8.55pm Saving Private Ryan 3pm, 7.30pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

(0171-226 3520) @ Angel Saving Private Ryan 3.30pm, 7.40pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) @ Belsize Park Love Is the Devil 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9.05pm

UCI WHITELEYS

(0990-888990) @ Queensway Armageddon 2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm Dr Dolittle 1.05pm, 4.20pm, 7.10pm The Horse Whisperer 1.40pm, 5.05pm, 8.25pm The Last Days of Disco 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.35pm Lethal Weapon 4 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid 1.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.25pm Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.25pm, 9.30pm, 8.35pm The X-Files 9.10pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA

(0870-9070711) @ Sloane Square The Last Days of Disco 12.15pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 4pm, 8pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD

(0870-9070711) @ South Kensington The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm,

BR/DE **STRAIGHT** (0181-315 4218) BR/DE Richmond (0181-315 4218) 1.40pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm Couch Bette 6.50pm The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm The Land Girls 1.10pm, 6.50pm The Spanish Prisoner 3.30pm, 9.20pm The X-Files 1.10pm, 4pm, 9.10pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR Romford, 8.10pm, 10pm, 12.20pm, 2.30pm, 4.40pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm The Horse Whisperer 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm The Horse Whisperer 12.10pm, 4.30pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Lost In Space 12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm, 3.50pm, 7.30pm The X-Files 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm

SEDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sedcup Lethal Weapon 4.5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving Private Ryan 4pm, 7.30pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR Crickledown (0870-9070717) 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mr Nice Guy 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 4.40pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm The X-Files 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill The God Generation 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Mr Nice Guy 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.55pm Saving Private Ryan 2.20pm, 7.15pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219)
BR: Streatham Hill/Brixton/Capham BR: Streatham Hill 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Mr Nice Guy 8.45pm Saving Private Ryan 4.40pm, 7.45pm, 8.30pm The X-Files 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm

STRASTFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE-HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/VE Stratford East Babyforn 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Lethal Weapon 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm The X-Files 12.25pm, 3.30pm, 5.45pm

SUTTON
CICI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Sutton Coldfield Morden Armageddon 4.45pm, 6pm, 9.15pm Lethal Weapon 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.30pm The Horse Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.30pm Lethal Weapon 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Saving Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 8.30pm

TURKISH LANE
ROCKFORD (0181-888 2519) BR: Turkish Lane Lethal Weapon 2pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 7.15pm, 8.35pm Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm

SURREY QUAYS
CICI (0990 888990) & Surrey Quays Armageddon 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 4.55pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm Lethal Weapon 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 8.30pm, 8.15pm Lethal Weapon 4pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Little Mermaid 12.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm Lost In Space 2pm The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.15pm Saving Private Ryan 12noon, 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9pm Species II 9.45pm The X-Files 3pm, 8pm

WINDMILL
ODEON (01895-813139) BR: Windmill Lethal Weapon 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 8.25pm Saving Private Ryan 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm

WALTHAMSTOWN
ABC (0870-9020424) & Walthamstow Central Lethal Weapon 4.45pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3pm, 3.30pm, 8.10pm Saving Private Ryan 2.30pm, 7.30pm

WELL HALL
ODEON (0181-850 3351) BR: Well Hall Lethal Weapon 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm

WILLESDEN
WILLESDEN-VUE (0181-830 0822) BR: Willemsden Green Lethal Weapon 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR/VE Wimbledon (0181-315 4222) 12.45pm, 4.05pm, 7.35pm Lethal Weapon 4.20pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.0pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm Saving Private Ryan 2.10pm, 3.45pm, 7.30pm The X-Files 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) & South Woodford Lethal Weapon 4pm, 2.20pm, 8.10pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 4.0pm, 8.10pm, 8.40pm Saving Private Ryan 2.40pm, 7.30pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON (347 6664) & Wood Green Lane Gharwall Bhamwell Pyar To Hona Hi The 2pm Salamander 8pm Yes Boss 11am

WOOLWICH
ROCKFORD (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 4pm, 7.15pm, 8.35pm Saving Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
LUMIERE LUMIERE Queensberry Place NW7 (0171-836 2144/2146) Les Femmes (18) 7.30pm

PRINCE LEICESTER SQUARE:
THE BRITISH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL Leicester Square WC2 (0171-437 3434/3435/0990-888955) The Best Of British: Animation (NC) 12noon From Form to Film (NC) 2pm British and International Animation (NC) 4pm Atlantic Crossing Drama (NC) 4pm Atlantic Crossing Drama (NC) 4pm British and International Dramas (NC) 4pm Exotic Encounters: Dramas

LEWIS GALLERY: THE ORIGINAL LONDON FILM FESTIVAL THE BRITISH SHORT FILM FESTIVAL 30 Regent Street W1 (info 0171-734 7123 x 36) New British and International Experimental Works 2 (NC) 1pm British and International Documentaries 1 (NC) 5pm British and International Documentaries 2 (NC) 7pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) The Man Between: Movies Monday (NC) 3.30pm Dead Of Night (18) 6.15pm PCPC Le Mok (15) 6.30pm Mirror (NC) 8.30pm Goldfinger (PG) 8.45pm

PEPSI IMAX: The Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153) Across The Sea Of Time - A New Year Adventure (3-D) (U) 10.45am, 12.30pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.15pm, 9.20pm Documentaries 1 (NC) 5pm, 11.55am, 2pm, 6.20pm, 8.25pm, 10.30pm Everest (U) 4.05pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place W1 (0171-837 811) Monday 12 6.15pm As Good As It Gets (15) 9pm

REVERSED: The Spanish Prisoner W6 (0181-267 1114/0171-420 0100) Scrilla (PG) 7pm & The Battishoff Potemkin 8.45pm

BRIGHTON
CINEMATHEQUE (01273-739770) Ugetsu Monogatari (NC) 8pm

DUKE OF YORKS: (01273-626261) The Last Days Of Disco (15) 4.15pm, 8.45pm Psycho (15) 2pm, 6.30pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHEAD (0117-925 3845) Blonde Cobra (NC)/Flaming Creatures (18) 8.25pm Contain Beta (15) 8pm The Daytrippers (15) 8.30pm Love Is The Devil (18) 6.05pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) Le Bossu (15) 2pm, 9.20pm Goglio Di Io (15) 7.10pm The Woodlanders (PG) 5pm

CARDIFF
CHAPPEL ARTS CENTRE (01222-339665) Ponette (15) 7.30pm Psycho (15) 8pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) The Land Girls (18) 8.15pm The Real Blonde (15) 5.45pm

OXFORD
PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE (01865-56181-267 1114/0171-420 0100) Bullitt (PG) 6.30pm Couch Betts (15) 1.45pm Metroland (18) 4pm, 9pm The Spanish Prisoner (PG) 4.15pm, 9.15pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) The Thief (15) 8pm

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON
ABC EAST STREET (01273-327010): DR: Doltice (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Saving Private Ryan (15); There's Something About Mary (15)

ODEON (01273-207977): Armageddon (12); Doltice (PG); Great Expectations (15); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); There's Something About Mary (15); The X-Files (15)

VIRGIN (0541-555145): Armageddon (12); Barney's Great Adventure (U); DR: Doltice (PG); Godzilla (PG); The Horse Whisperer (PG); The Land Girls (12); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book (U); Saving Private Ryan (15); There's Something About Mary (15); The X-Files (15)

CAMBRIDGE
WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442): Armageddon (12); Barney's Great Adventure (U); DR: Doltice (PG); Godzilla (PG); The Horse Whisperer (PG); Lethal Weapon 4 (15); Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18); Lost In Space (PG); The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U); Saving Private Ryan (1

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First Call
BY THE age of 17, Jonny Lang had sold more than a million copies in the States of his debut album, *Lie To Me*. That was little more than a year ago, and Lang's fast-rising fame has shown little sign of flagging with a series of headline shows and support gigs with The Rolling Stones, B B King and Aerosmith. This tour coincides with the release of his second album, *Wonder This World*, which is a mish-mash of blues, R&B, rock and ballads. *Shepherd's Bush Empire, London W12 (0171-771 2000)*
21 Oct

Last Call
THE TED HUGHES production of Jean Racine's *Phèdre* opened earlier this month to great acclaim, with Diana Rigg (*right*) playing the eponymous heroine, ably supported by Julian Glover and Toby Stephens. The story concerns Phèdre's passion for her stepson and the tragedy unleashed after she confesses her desires on the mistaken assumption that her husband is dead. Racine is said to have written it to prove that "a good poet could get the greatest crimes excused and even inspire compassion for the criminals".
Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730) to 28 Nov

BIRMINGHAM **MUCH-LOVED comedy of** **the Monks-Born 8pm, mat Tue** **10.30pm, Wed 8.50pm, Sat** **7.30pm.** **St Mary's Street (01494-**

STONED **The Last Time Edward** **performs Samuel Beckett's** **monologic piece. 21-23 Sept,** **10.30. St Mary's Street (01494-**

TION **THEATRE Richard III** **in Bogdanov's provocative** **of this portrait of** **mammie evil. 21 Sept. 7.30pm,** **concs £6.50. Earl Street** **(758611)**

BORN **FESTIVAL THEATRE** **as Peter Shaffer's engrus-** **inspired by the music of** **21-26 Sept. 8pm. £12-** **concs available. Grange Road** **(892277)**

RURY **THE MILMILL THEATRE The** **emission: Inspector Gogol's tale** **of corruption and greed in 1880s** **Weston - on-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu** **& F, 6pm, ends 3 Oct. £6-£15,** **available. Bagnor (01635-**

LAMPTON **THEATRE Cider With Rosie** **Lee's classic tale of love in a** **tyll is adapted for the stage.** **7.30pm, ends 26 Sept.** **Guthrie Hall Road (01604-632**

D **STATION THEATRE** **And Juliet Shakespeare's** **love story. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,** **ends 2.30pm, ends 26 Sept. £8-** **5.50. George Street (01865-**

HOUSE THEATRE How The **Half Loves Alvin Aardvork's** **about a suburban trip of cou-** **ted by the work of the hus-** **Mon-Thurs & Sat. 2.30pm, ends** **£8-£19.50, concs available.** **Mid Street (01865-798600)**

BOROUGH **THEATRE And Then There** **Noise Agatha Christie's** **is set in a lonely house on** **t island. 21-24 Sept.** **20-25-26 Sept. 8pm, mat 24** **Sept. 8.30pm, £8-£11.50, concs** **£5. Embankment Road** **(552439)**

UTH **THEATRE. THEATRE ROY-** **to Pigs Acclaimed contem-** **porary play from Erika Walsh.** **Sep. 7.45pm. £8.50, concs** **£. Royal Parade South** **(267222)**

THE ROYAL Gross Indecen- **Three Trials Of Oscar Wilde** **and celebrate as the disinte-** **copyright in Moises Kauf-** **Man. Sep. 7.30pm. Royal Pa-** **de. Sep. 7-15, Royal Parade** **(011752-267222)**

CENTRE Gentlemen **and Ladies' Cross Starts in** **London. Sep. 7.30pm, £8-£12.** **A Girl's Best Friend? 21-** **2. 7.45pm. £8-£14.50.** **Station Rd (01202-685224)**

URY **PLAYHOUSE The Tale of** **the Taming posson stars Cathy** **Wright. tonight 7.30pm, ends** **£8-£15. Malthouse Lane** **(203033)**

ND **THEATRE Dead Funny John-** **son's directs Terry Johnson's** **about a man's obsession** **ad comedians. Mon-Thurs** **Fri-Sat 8pm, ends 26 Sept.** **£5-£9.50, ends 29.50. Claren-** **ce (01923-225871)**

UFF-ON-SEA **PAVILION Jesus Christ** **and Tim Rice and Lloyd** **acclaimed biblical musical.** **8pm, Sat 9pm, mats Wed** **Sat 5.30pm, ends 26 Sept.** **£25.50. Station Road** **(511135)**

THEATRE Theatre **Rodgers and Hammer-** **musical musical. Mon-Sat** **8pm, ends 3 Oct. prices for** **seats (01702-342564)**

R **ROYAL THEATRE The Importance** **of Being Earnest. Jan Goddard and** **the company in the Oscar Wilde's** **verbal pyrotechnics. Mon-Mats** **Tue 2.30pm, Sat 8pm, ends 3 Oct.** **£5-£20. Street (01753-853888)**

TORIA THEATRE Pirates **are Paul Nicholas stars in** **an all-out reworking of** **the classic. 21-23 Sept. 2.30pm,** **concs available. Peacock** **Entertainments Centre**

ABERYSTWYTH ARTS CENTRE AN **Italian Dream. Lud Melagari Prints** **inspired by Northern Italy. Ends** **28 Sept.** **Arday Photographs by Sebastiao** **Salgado. Ends 28 Sept.** **Claire Carneen Ceramic sculptures** **of the human figure. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm** **& part even, ends 28 Oct. free.** **Pengilais (01970-623322)**

BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART **BRIGHTON Museum and Art** **Galleries. Displays of War:** **Italy, Goya, Die Selections from** **three artists who selected. Mon, Tu-** **Thurs 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm,** **ends 4 Oct. Free. Church Street** **(01273-290900)**

BERTOL **ARNOFNUJ Udonsak Krtisanman** **And Peter Dool Work by the two** **widely exhibited artists. Mon-Sat** **10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-6pm, ends** **3 Oct. free. Narrows Quay (0117-** **9259 9191)**

CARDIFF **ST DAVID'S HALL Art 2000 Recent** **work by South Wales-based artists** **including George Kilburns and Pat** **Clifford. Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, ends** **3 Oct. free. The Hayes (01222-** **878444)**

FALMOUTH ART GALLERY Kathie **Holmworth: Artists Of The People** **Presenting 20th-century German art.** **Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat** **10am-1pm, ends 10 Oct. free. The** **Moor (01326-313863)**

LONDON **NATIONAL Gallery Venice** **Twentieth Century European** **three paintings and drawings by the** **Venetian artist. Ends 11 Oct. free.** **Mirror Image: Jonathan Miller On** **Reflection Mirrors and reflections** **in art from Van Dyck to Helen** **Eland. Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed** **to 8pm), Sun 12noon-6pm, ends** **13 Dec. £5.50, concs £3.50, audio** **guide. Trafalgar Square. WC2 (0171-** **933 3321) © Charing Cross.**

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS **Picasso: Painter And Sculptor In** **Clay Exploring the ceramic works of** **the 28th-century artist. Mon-Sun** **10am-6pm (Fri to 8.30pm), ends 4** **Oct. £12. Dec. phone for prices.** **Critical Mass: Antony Gormley** **Sixty casts of human bodies. Mon-Sun** **all day, ends Sept 30, free.** **Chagall: Love And The Stage** **Featuring colourful murals made in** **Buenos Aires. Mon-Sun 10am-6pm (Fri** **to 8.30pm), ends 4 Oct. phone for** **prices. Burlington House, Piccadilly,** **W1 (0171-300 8000/c4c 413** **717) © Green Park.**

TATE GALLERY Art Now 15: Fiona **Banner New paintings and a** **drawing inspired by popular culture.** **Ends 1 Nov. free.** **Moonlight And Firelight: Water-** **colour painting The Turner Bequest** **Work exploring Turner's interest in** **moonlight and firelight. Mon-Sun** **10am-5.30pm, ends 11 Nov. free.** **Milkbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000)** **© Fimico.**

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM **Picasso's Ladies: Wendy Ramshaw** **Precious-metal jewellery. Ends** **15 Feb.** **Canon Photography Gallery New** **gallery displaying highlights from the** **photography collection. Mon 12noon-** **6.30pm, Tue-Sun 10am-3.45pm,** **permanent exhibition. £5, concs** **£3, under 18s/UBAQ/mems/disabled** **NUS/after 4.30pm free.** **Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938** **8441) © South Kensington.**

MAIDSTONE **MAIDSTONE LIBRARY GALLERY** **Tania Mouraud: World Signs First** **English solo show by the Paris-** **based artist. Mon-Sat 3.00am-6.00** **(Mon to 7pm, Sat to 5pm), ends** **Nov. Free. St Faith's Street (01622-** **752434)**

KENTTOWN **Oriel 31 Aurora: Shan Edwards** **Recent work exploring the night sky.** **Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, ends 19 Sept.** **free. Park (01686-625041)**

NORWICH **NORWICH CASTLE MUSEUM** **Modern British and European** **Painting c.1680-1940 Including** **work by Munnings and Gwen John.** **Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-** **5pm, ends 6 Dec. £2.40, concs** **£1.50. Castle Meadow** **(01603-223624)**

PETERSFIELD **BEDALES Gallery David Hock-** **ney: Grimm's Fairy Tales Etchings** **based on fairy tales. Mon-Fri 2pm-** **5pm to 10am-1pm, pm 10-10 Oct.** **free. (01730-263286)**

ST IVES **ST IVES LATE Gallery Colour in** **Space: Patrick Heron Britain's** **leading artist's public artwork. Ends** **18 Oct.** **Art & Design: John Beard Studies** **of a Portuguese cliff face. Ends 1 Nov.** **£3.50, concs £2.** **Displays 1951-76 Show focusing on** **the De Stijl group and the contemporaries** **of Roger Hilton. Ends 1 Nov.** **The Fragile Cell: John Wells Paint-** **ings. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-** **5pm, ends 1 Nov. £3.50, concs £2.**

ANDERSON **MUNDAN** **CHURCH** Piano Circus in evening of music for six sax bands, Tonight 7.45pm, £6, concs £4, Regent Road, E7 (0171-511 2422) DLR, Beckton.

MURCELL **ROOM** London Schubert Quartet, including Mendelssohn's 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827,

ENTON
Scratch crew offer an evening and innovative approach to modern culture. Museum & Art Gallery New Road (01273-290200) Ends 11pm for details.

EDINBURGH
RIVERS Exhibition of Native American poetry and illustration as well as the weaving. American season. Museum & Art Gallery New Road (01273-290200) Ends 11pm for details.

EDINBURGH
CALLING! The BBC AT W PLACE 1923-1932 Exhibition of architectural material on the walls of the BBC. Institute of Professional Engineers Survey Place (0171-344 8436) @ Embankment Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. ends 25 Sept. free.

EDINBURGH
THE GREAT IN ENGLAND Exhibition Documents and artifacts about Tsar Peter's English ventures during a trip aiming to succeed to Russia. English Institute. Queen's House, National Maritime Museum Park Row SE10 8NF. 0171-585 4422. BR: Green-ends 27 Sept. free with club adm. £5, child £2.50, EA, family ticket £15

MUSIC
POP

EDINBURGH
LOCAL Local sonic experimental group prepare for a US tour. The Lifts New Road (01273-730515) @ Bpm, free.

EDINBURGH
FINN, ARNOLD Crowded frontman tours his solo album, *Hissing Thru St David's Hall* (01222-878444) Tonight 7.12.50-£15.

EDINBURGH
RAHREZ Soul and latin trip from the Distant Dreams album. Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 0100) @ Camden Town. Tonight 7.12.50-£10

EDINBURGH
STRAP Off-license to-films from the acclaimed Queen Elizabeth Hall South Centre SE1 (0171-960 4242) @ Waterloo. Tonight 7.30pm, £9.

EDINBURGH
INNER TERRESTRIALS Dance/Hardcore punk line-up. Underworld Camden High NW1 (0171-482 1932) @ Camden Town. Tonight 7pm, £5.

EDINBURGH
ESSENCE Only Forever album by Jamie Mudriczki's Mancs. The Roadmender Ladies (01604-604222) Tonight 8pm, for prices.

EDINBURGH
ESSEX Essex blues-rock celebrate ten years on the road. @ Firkin Gloucester Street SW1 (01222-727265) Tonight 8-727265. 3.30pm.

EDINBURGH
MOOSE West Country surf-rock. The Wharf Canal Road (01222-611166) Tonight 8pm, for prices.

MUSIC
JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK

EDINBURGH
UNDO Versatile and highly flexible Latin band. Penny Theatre Northgate (01222-470512) 7.30pm, £5, concs £4.

EDINBURGH
ROBINSON, MARK CROOKS Locally adept tenor, plus temporary clarinetist. 606 Club SW10 (0171-352 5953) @ Camden Broadway/Earls Court. 9.30pm & 12midnight.

EDINBURGH
SHEW American trad and modern trumpet and cornet. Pizza Express Jazz Club Street W1 (0171-439 8722) @ Camden Court Road. Tonight 12.50.

EDINBURGH
QUARTET Fast-moving with a strong bebop sensibility on the Park Knightsbridge (0171-235 5273) @ Hyde Corner. Tonight 9.15pm & 11.15pm, adv £16.

EDINBURGH
BROWN, PETER KING European US vocalist the best of local talent. @ Scott's Fifth Street W1 (0171-439 0747) @ Leicester Square. Tonight 9pm & 11.30pm. £5. £4. NUS £8 (Mon-Thurs) £5 (Fri-Sat).

EDINBURGH
CLUB Enterprising new network resident. @ Ronnie Scott's Fifth Square/Piccadilly Circus. 9pm, £6.50, mens £5.

EDINBURGH
'S ALLSTARS Jazz quintet.



6 PM

7 PM

8 PM

9 PM

10 PM

C 7 7 s s u d o h C a m c

Channel 5

8.00 5 News and Sport (S) (63.65334, 7.00) **Vineyard**
(R) (S) (7) (3335809), 7.30 **Midweek** (S) (5305654)
7.55 What's a Mess (4798395, 6.10) **Hannah** (S)
(9581192), 8.30 **Daphneford Farm** (838711), 9.00 **The**
Great House Game (S) (7) (3335082, 8.25) **Russell**
Grants Postcards (8240150), 9.30 **The Open Whirly**
Show (780507), 10.00 **Sunset Beach** (435219), 11.00
Leeza (8237683), 12.00 **Stars at Noon** (S) (5691659)
12.30 Family Affairs (2893797), 1.00 **The Bond and the**
Beauty (7335779), 1.30 **Sore and Daughters** (2892044)

2.250 Open House with Gloria Hamflord. Upright Dancer Bird finds some new people to tail about his long career etc. (\$) (307/5136).

2.200 100 Per Cent Gold (\$) (232/5553).

5.30 Family Affairs. Jack can't wake Elsie. She's probably reading the script. And Holly left Susan last Dawn is (2867421).

going to keep quiet about the night before (45-6567).

10:05 News, Including First on Five. Kirey Young sticks about with the day's events (5) (7) (45-6719).

10:30 Polar Odyssey. Documentary about the wildlife that hangs out amid the glaciers of Alaska (5) (7) (45-6844).

100 The House Doctor. The doc visits a two-bedroom 1820s cottage in Stamford Mountain Rd., painting over cold colours with warm neutrals and such like (8/20/27).

Of this time-series version of the steampunk story which formed the basis for the famous Stanley Kubrick movie, Steven Weber has the thankless task of following Jack Nicholson as the increasingly deranged writer working as a caretaker at an out-of-season Rooky Mountaine Hotel. Rebecca de Mornay seems badly miscast in the Shelley Duvall role (S) (TV 7346324).

50 Dr. Fox's Chief Update (S) (252711).
51S EDITH The Murders in the Rue Morgue
 (Leopold Barker 1893 US), Rebecca M. Morley again
 (see *The Shining*, above), this time being horrified in
 1890s Paris in this so-so version of the Edgar Allan Poe
 tale. (George C. Scott, Ian McShane and Val Kilmer are

448 American Football: Dallas Cowboys vs New York Giants (S) (8677822), 4-40 Pilsener Cell Block H (4025483), 5-30 100 Per Cent (4555619), To Barn.

MOVIE CLUB:
SWEETIE.
Directed by
Jane Campion.
Tonight at 10.00pm.

UK ARENA

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